



16 August, 2013

To: Maine Charter School Commission
Subject: Letter of Intent to Submit a Charter School Application

I am writing on behalf of Many Hands Montessori School in submitting this letter of intent to submit a charter school application. We are hopeful to open our doors as a public charter school in Windham, for the academic year beginning September 2014. Our aim is to serve the families of Windham and surrounding communities. In our opening year, we intend to serve students from kindergarten through third grade, with plans to expand through the eighth grade in successive years. Many Hands Montessori School anticipates enrolling 40 students in our first year, and projects our total enrollment to be 100 students when fully established through grade eight.

The educational practices and philosophies of education pioneer Maria Montessori are the foundation of our school. Maria Montessori's educational method has stood the test of time, with success in diverse cultures for over one hundred years. The hallmarks of Montessori education include: multiage classrooms to foster peer learning, uninterrupted blocks of work time, guided choice of activities, and a carefully prepared classroom environment. Montessori instruction emphasizes learning through all five senses, using many hands-on materials. This sort of educational instruction aims to engage and excite students, regardless of their learning style, and to capitalize upon their innate strengths and abilities. Learning is an exciting process of discovery, leading to increases in concentration, motivation, self-discipline, and a love of learning. Our students will celebrate, protect, and cultivate our beautiful Maine land. Agricultural-based projects and partnerships will both encourage environmental stewardship, and will strengthen our investment in community building.

The contact person for Many Hands Montessori School is:

Jennifer Benham
143 Nash Road
Windham, Maine 04062
207-221-5191
jenniferbenham@gmail.com

We are excited to work with you in the future.

Thank you,

Jennifer Benham