



MONADNOCK WALDORF SCHOOL

Educating Children
with Courage, Compassion
and Conviction

1976-2021





Monadnock Waldorf School began in 1976 as the Tomte-Gubben School, a grassroots, Waldorf-inspired kindergarten founded by Janet Gordon, Linda Ladoucuer and Signe Motter.

The Tomte-Gubben School opened in the Motters' home in Sullivan, New Hampshire with 8 preschool-aged children. According to an account of the early school, the atmosphere was "very informal, with parents frequently staying all morning with Signe in the kitchen, chatting and drinking tea."

Within the first year, the school relocated to a farmhouse in Nelson. Enrollment quickly increased until the school grew with combined classes spanning preschool to 6th grade. The school's founding faculty set about establishing Tomte Gubben as an official Waldorf school devoted to helping children become free human beings.



Tomte-Gubben School

Sullivan, New Hampshire



Tomte-Gubben School 1976-1982



We have changed our name and address. Please
make note of it on your mailing list.

Thank You

formerly Tomte-Gubben School
Box 123
E. Sullivan, NH

presently Monadnock Waldorf School
98 South Lincoln
Keene, NH 03431

Monadnock Waldorf School 1980-90s





MWS 8th Grade Graduating Classes, 1980s



The Tomte-Gubben School changed its name to Monadnock Waldorf School in 1982. It relocated that year to the former Lincoln School building in downtown Keene, where it opened to serve nursery, kindergarten and 1st through 4th grade children.

The school's early faculty brought to life a curriculum that recognized the gifts of each individual student through an education that nurtured the whole child: mind, body and spirit.

MWS graduated its first 8th grade class in 1987 and became a member of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America in 1989. Growing enrollment led to the purchase of 12 acres on Old Walpole Road as the new home of the Early Childhood program in 1992.



Top to bottom:
Mr. Schepker's classes of '87 and '88; Ms. Warnock's class of '89

MWS 8th Grade Graduating Classes, 1990s



Top to bottom:

Mr. Van Riel's class of '91; Ms. Newhouse's class of '92; Mr. McGuigan's class of '93

Top to bottom:

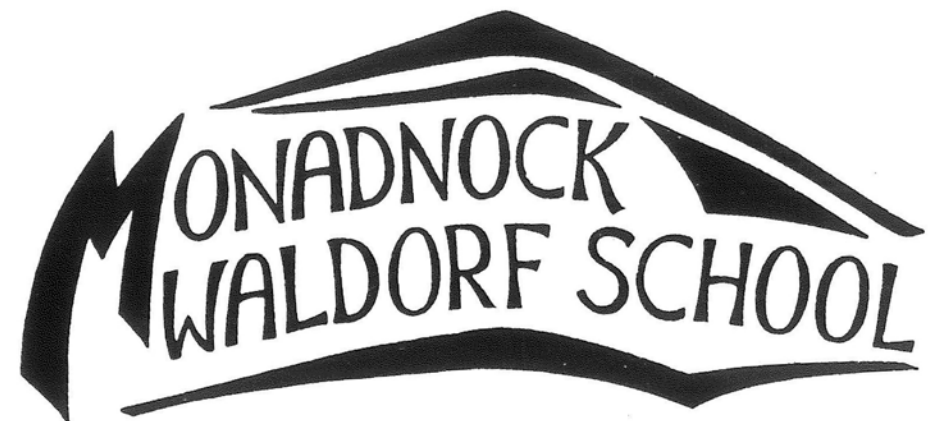
Mr. Van Riel's class of '94; Mr. Dziedzic's class of '95; Ms. Motter's class of '96

Monadnock Waldorf School 2000s



Top to bottom:

Ms. Marshall's class of '97; Mr. Shinerock's class of '98; Ms. Van Riel's class of '99



*a comprehensive and creative approach
to your child's education*



The 2000s were a decade of growth for MWS. A robust capital fundraising campaign allowed for the expansion of the Grade School with the addition of a new foyer and Assembly Room.

By mid-decade, the school had grown to a peak enrollment of 185 students from preschool to 8th grade. Renovations at the Early Childhood campus added new classrooms and allowed for new programs to serve young families.

An active community of families and friends continued to grow and reinvest its energy and talent in the school. We marked each year together with a calendar of seasonal event—including Michaelmas, the Lantern Walk, Spiral Walk, Winter Crafts Fair, and May Day.

MWS 8th Grade Graduating Classes, 2000s



Bottom: Ms. Arnold's class of '00



Top to bottom:
Ms. Myer's class of '01; Ms. Schwerin's class of '02; Ms. Motter's class of '03



Top to bottom:
Mr. McGuigan's class of '04; Ms. Marshall's class of '05; Ms. Zakrzewski's class of '06

Top to bottom:
Ms. Schwerin's class of '07; Mr. McGuigan's class of '08; Ms. Myer's class of '09



Monadnock Waldorf School 2010s

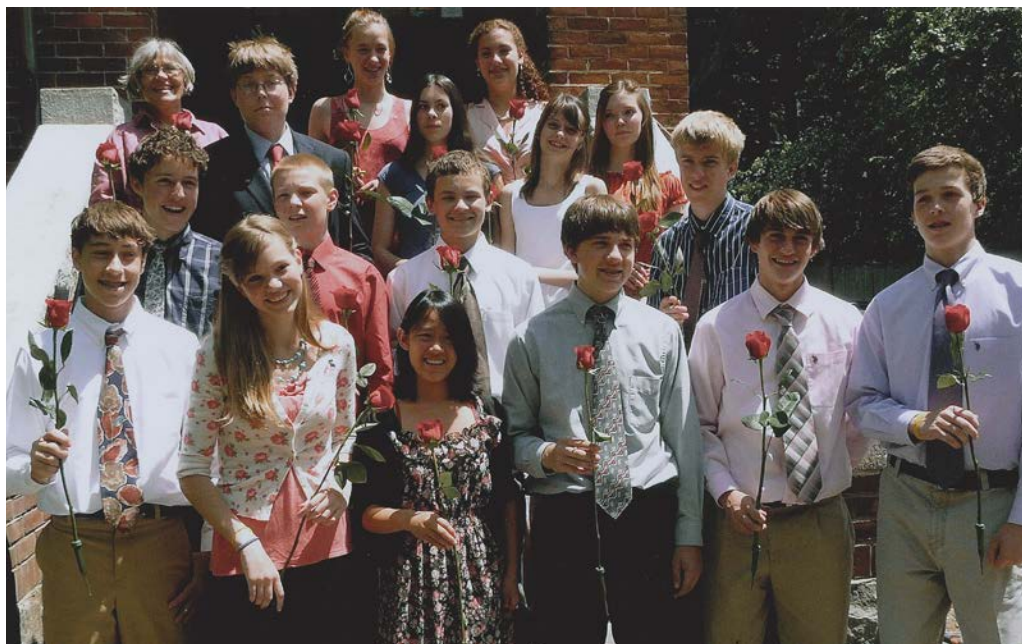
With the opening of a high school in 2010, MWS realized a vision of Waldorf education spanning from preschool to 12th grade. Across three campuses, the school offered age-appropriate learning suited to each stage of a child's development.

On our Early Childhood campus, free play in nature nurtured children's sense of wonder and imagination. At the Grade School, teachers awakened students' creativity and curiosity in order to cultivate their love of learning. At the High School, a rigorous, experiential curriculum challenged students to seek truth, meaning and purpose in the world.

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MWS 8th Grade Graduating Classes, 2010s



Top to bottom:
Ms. Morse's class of '10; Ms. Motter's class of '11; Mr. McGuigan's class of '12



Top to bottom:
Ms. Marshall's class of '13; Ms. Kerr's class of '14; Mr. Price's class of '15



Monadnock Waldorf High School, 2010-2018

In 2010, a dedicated group of friends and faculty founded Monadnock Waldorf High School in the Tilden school building in downtown Keene. For 8 years, the high school served 155 students, including 45 international students.

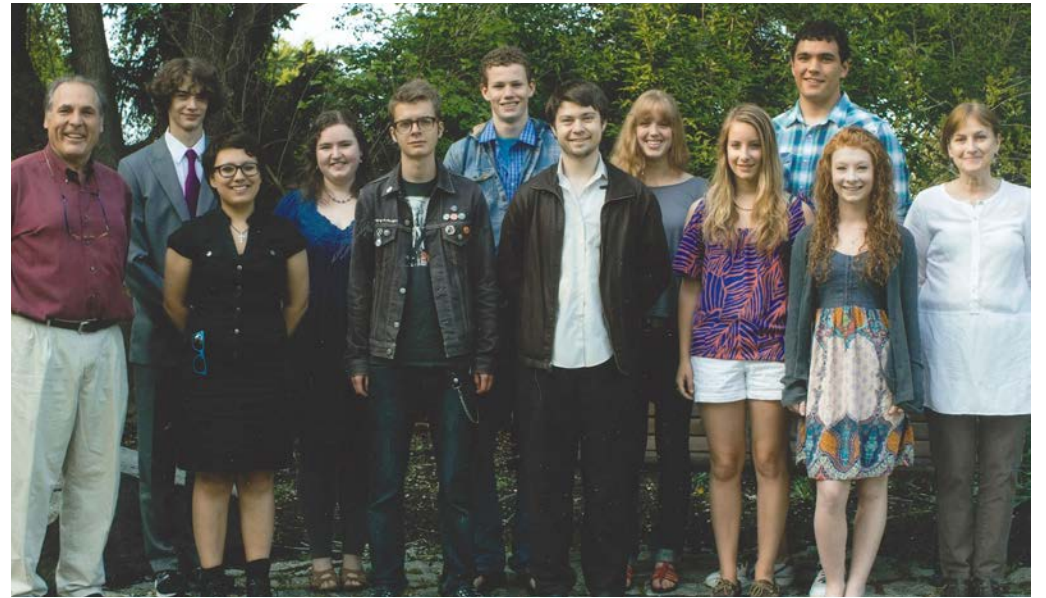
An experiential curriculum encouraged students to observe the world, think critically for themselves, and enrich their lives with music, fine and practical arts, and other forms of creative expression.



Top to bottom: Ms. Henry's class of '16; Ms. Meyer's class of '17; Mr. Foster's class of '18
Next page: Ms. Wiener's class of '19



MWHS Senior Graduating Classes



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Top to bottom: Class of '13; Class of '14; Class of '15



Top to bottom:
Class of '16; Class of '17; Class of '18



Monadnock Waldorf School 2020s

MWS made the difficult decision to close at the end of the 2020-2021 school year due to changes in regional demographics and a new educational landscape.

Our final years as a school were unprecedented in every way! Our faculty, staff and families rose to the challenge of a global pandemic. We took Waldorf education online and learned in outdoor classrooms.

In many ways, our resilience and flexibility during this time demonstrated the strengths of Waldorf education and its power and relevance in our world today.



MWS 8th Grade Graduating Classes, 2020s



Top to bottom: Mr. Raynor's class of '20; Ms. Butler's class of '21



We asked former teachers to sum up their experience of MWS. They replied:

Life's joyful reverence

A nurturing place for children

Loving enthusiasm

Inspired caring

Human connections

Freedom to teach

An unwavering circle of loving support

The agony & the ecstasy

Working, learning, playing

Music in the attic, music in the basement

Love conquers all





For 45 years, it has been our honor to bring a rich and dynamic Waldorf education to generations of students and families in this region. We offer our heartfelt thanks to the many students, families, teachers, staff, neighbors and friends who have nurtured our school over the decades. Along with you, we look forward to welcoming a new era of Waldorf education in the Monadnock region.

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