



# The Walden School

Dear Walden Families,

It is with heavy heart that I share with you my intention to retire as Head of School at the end of the 2021-2022 school year; The Walden School has been a cherished part of my life for over 35 years! After starting my career in education as a teacher in a more traditional setting, I came to Walden with my preschool son and discovered an intriguing vision of what education might look like. I had the good fortune of working for 2 years with the School's Founder, Mary LeFever, who inspired me to learn more about the Montessori philosophy; her influence transformed the way I thought about teaching and learning which is the reason for my remaining at Walden for so many years. I have had the pleasure of being a teacher in both the Extended Day and in the Elementary programs, along with being the Assistant Head of School and Head of School; I have been grateful for every minute.

My work as Head of School has had many joyful moments; I rarely have had a day that I am not in awe of the work that I have seen done by children and with children. There have also been challenges along the way, including the navigation of school life during a pandemic never experienced before in our lifetime.

I know that none of what has been accomplished over the last 11 years would have been possible if I had not been surrounded by the support of an extraordinary administrative team, devoted faculty, dedicated trustees, and engaged families who believed in Walden's mission and unique learning environment. I am so grateful for a professional community of both colleagues whose vocation has served Walden for years, as well as the enthusiastic, energetic teachers who have joined us more recently!

Since I have the remainder of this school year to serve as Walden's Head of School, I am going to work daily not to imagine the next leg of my journey just yet. The Walden School has and will always be considered a major blessing in my life; I will miss my work here and the extraordinary school community that I share it with!

The Board of Trustees is starting its work on providing a seamless transition to Walden's new leadership and will reach out soon with next steps.

With fondness and deep appreciation for all,

**Mary McKeon**

Head of School