

# Riley Mission Statement

The mission of Riley School is to support the needs of young children and adolescents during their critical years of cognitive, emotional, and social growth. Riley School believes that self-worth is the key to success in academic achievement, creative expression, personal happiness, discipline, and community service. We champion the ability of all people to collaborate and to help others through cooperative work. We support the ability to recognize and value each individual's unique gifts and talents. We foster a sense of responsibility towards our natural environment and strive to promote all of these goals within an educational setting which provides appropriate adult role models and a secure, loving atmosphere for learning.

Each year Riley creates a learning environment commensurate with its mission by building upon the following ideals:

- **Academics:** A comprehensive elementary academic program is provided in which children receive individual attention to skills and behavior which may be unique unto themselves. The academic program reflects the Riley educational philosophy of meaningful and child-centered education based upon continued study of the children and their ways of knowing.
- **Challenge and Success:** Success and a sense of growing self-esteem are the rewards that come from meeting individual challenges in an environment that provides reachable goals, structure, and encouragement.
- **Stimulating Educational Environment:** The learning environment respects the learner and his/her individual process of discovery and fulfillment. This environment is an interactive one which continually engages and challenges the learner.
- **Discipline:** Discipline at Riley School is determined by respect for self and others. It is recognized as a capacity to make responsible decisions, to make and keep commitments, and to respect the ideas and beliefs of others.
- **Responsibility:** Children learn to take responsibility for themselves and others in a manner appropriate to their age. This is demonstrated through thoughtful conduct, work that is supportive of the community life, and the development of independence. Because the children achieve success on many levels, each is able to assume a responsible leadership position.

# Riley's Philosophy

*"The ideal of education is not to teach the maximum, to maximize results, but above all to learn to learn to develop, and to develop after leaving school."*

Jean Piaget

Riley offers a unique and creative approach to learning. First, it matters greatly how the child constructs knowledge and learns. Then specific skills and facts become meaningful and useful tools for the child. A curriculum which supports this stance is continually changing based upon the child's interests, needs, and experiences. This in turn nurtures the child's self-worth and creativity encouraging her/his continued participation in the educational process.

Since learning occurs within the child's own timetable, he/she does not become frustrated by unreasonable levels of achievement but, rather, is stimulated to reach personal goals or expectations suitable to their own developmental stage.

At Riley children progress through the program at their own rate, given the necessary time and provided with stimulating learning experiences designed to support continued growth which enhances his/her life. Because learning is a natural process for children, we create an environment in which individual achievement is reflected in an exciting academic and arts program while also providing opportunities for each child to grow emotionally and socially with responsibility and self-discipline.

Riley is not an exclusive learning environment but an inclusive one which uses the diversity of its children and adults to achieve a sense of genuine community.

Finally, but not incidentally, Riley tries not to take itself too seriously. Knowing that laughter is a unique human gift, we support young children in gaining an enlightened and loving perspective of the human condition.

Glenna W. Plaisted  
Founder / Director

# GENERAL INFORMATION

Founded: 1972

Founder/Director: Glenna Wade Plaisted

Average Enrollment: 90 children

Student Teacher Ratio: 8 to 1

Geographic Distribution: 18 towns and 3 counties

- Riley is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and by the Maine State Department of Education
- Riley is a member of the Independent Schools Association of Northern New England
- Riley is the only Independent Elementary School ages 4 to 14 in Mid-Coast Maine (Pre-K through 9th)
- Riley is ungraded
- Year - round admission
- Riley's campus consists of 45 acres of peaceful and beautiful open fields, woods, and shore frontage. There are six buildings: a Farmhouse (offices located), a Lower School and Science Building, a spacious Library, a Creative Arts Building, a Carpentry Shop and a large Victorian Barn which is on the Historical Register.
- Riley offers a summer Workshop Program called College for Kids – held in two – two week sessions the last two weeks of June and the first two weeks of July. Children (ages 6-15) choose two workshops per session – sampling offering: Film Making, Art, Pottery, Science, and Musical Theater/Drama. Workshops are taught by professionals.
- Riley provides scholarship assistance to parents, who are committed to the high standards of education for their children but cannot financially manage full tuition. Applications may be obtained at the office.

The purpose of the scholarship program is to help ensure that children, who wish to attend Riley and who are accepted for enrollment, will not be prevented from attending due to a lack of funds. Scholarship monies are taken directly from tuition and therefore are limited and have to be replaced through Annual Fundraising. It is hoped that the parents of children who receive this aid will participate in all fundraising activities, and that they will contribute in future years, so that other families may receive assistance.

It is not uncommon while walking through the nature trail on a science expedition, or while sitting under the big maple trees during a class, or gathering on the spacious deck of the Library to rehearse a play, to see a variety of wildlife: squirrels, turkeys, fox, geese, many bird species, and deer who often visit or live on the campus.