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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Hawthorne Valley School announces first grade teacher for 2020-21 academic year

**GHENT, NY - MARCH 4, 2020:** Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School (HVS) is pleased to announce that Meaghan McKenna will lead our rising first grade class in September 2020.

McKenna first worked as a Kindergarten teacher for three years at Morning Meadow Waldorf School in Gainesville, Florida. She came to HVS in 2013 as a Lower School Class Teacher under the mentorship of HVS teachers Kevin Kilb and Andrew Sansone. Since coming to teach at Hawthorne Valley, Meaghan has taught in nearly every grade level from the first grade through 12th grade. She has been with her current class from grades 1-5 and will continue to support next year's grade six as a mentor/advisor.

"I look forward to working with the younger children again next year. It's a great joy to see the wonder and excitement of the first graders who see everything anew," McKenna says. "I'm excited to introduce more of a nature-based curriculum as I move into this new first grade. With that, I hope to incorporate and utilize more of Hawthorne Valley Farm and the woods to provide a nature-based curriculum that meets the unique needs of today's children."

McKenna earned a Bachelor's degree in the Social Sciences from Harvard University where she graduated with honors and a Master's Degree in Education and Waldorf teacher training from Antioch University.

McKenna will be at HVS's Open House this Saturday, March 7 from 9:30am-2:30pm, and is happy to meet families and discuss the first grade.

For more information about our first grade program or to schedule a tour of our school, contact John Darby, Director of Admissions, at [jdarby@hawthornevalley.org](mailto:jdarby@hawthornevalley.org) or 518-672-7092 x111.

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## About Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School

Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School is a pre-K through grade 12 school situated on a 900-acre Biodynamic® farm in New York's scenic Columbia County. Hawthorne Valley's integrative Waldorf

curriculum is designed to create a healthy and balanced learning environment where children build living connections to the natural world while cultivating social responsibility, personal excellence, and the practical capacities to meet the challenges of the future. Visit [hawthornevalleyschool.org](http://hawthornevalleyschool.org) to learn more.

The school is part of Hawthorne Valley Association, a diverse nonprofit dedicated to social and cultural renewal through the integration of education, agriculture, and the arts. Hawthorne Valley Association's campus includes the Waldorf school, a working Biodynamic farm, on-farm education programs, a full-line natural foods and grocery store, social, ecological, and cultural research groups, teacher training programs, and more. For additional information, please visit [hawthornevalley.org](http://hawthornevalley.org).