



## **Executive Summary**

Strawberry Blossom Montessori is working to found a community-embedded preschool for children ages 1 to 6 New London. The school is anchored in the values of connectedness and growth and will offer authentic and equitably-accessed Montessori early learning for families of all income levels.

The school will be a licensed child care center. It will have the capacity to enroll 36 children: 12 Toddlers (ages 14 months to 3 years-old) and 24 Primary children (ages 3 to 6 years-old). Six teachers will be employed at the school. The demand for the school already exceeds the spots available.

The school calendar will be consistent with the Kearsarge Regional School District calendar, running from September through June. The hours include an 8:00am to 3:30pm school day, with a limited aftercare program until 5:00pm. These hours have been chosen to bookend the hours at Kearsarge Regional Elementary School at New London so pick-up and drop-off times are staggered.

The morning business traffic generated by the school will include 30 cars from 8:00 to 8:30am, Monday to Friday. The afternoon traffic will consist of 24 cars from 3:00 to 3:30pm and 6 cars from 4:45 to 5:00pm. Outside of these drop-off and pick-up hours, there will be no business traffic generated by the school. The school will not generate traffic during July and August.

The teaching staff will utilize the back six parking spaces of the school lot. Seven spaces plus two ADA parking spaces will be available for families to use. Four temporary parking spaces are included along the west side of the building for drop-off, as well as a bypass lane. If the temporary spaces are full during drop-off, families will be instructed to drive around and park in the back lot. This traffic plan ensures that no cars will queue on Main Street. Additionally, our multiple traffic studies on Main Street and Gould Road confirm that cars will be able to easily and safely turn into and out of the school lot.

The school vision is for young children to be deeply connected to the land, nature, and the community. A Main Street location in New London's commercial zone will place young children at the heart of the community. It will also allow preschool children walkable access to civic resources such as the town library, green, nature trails, and senior centers. Deep connections to the community will nourish the children in these critical years of development.