“Our highest endeavor must be to develop free human beings, who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives.” ~Rudolf Steiner

Parents, educators, and community members have been working for nearly two years to create a Waldorf methods charter school within the Three Rivers School District. Our goal is to open the Woodland Charter School in the Fall 2011, beginning with grades K–6 and eventually growing to a K–8 school. Charter schools are tuition-free schools which run independently within the sponsoring school district and receive federal funding. The school will be sited in the Applegate Valley and families from Jacksonville to Grants Pass will be able to attend without an inter-district transfer.

Waldorf education is the fastest growing educational method, with over a thousand schools worldwide and an increasing number of charter schools in the United States. Waldorf education is grounded in a deep understanding of child development and works to recognize and value each child as an individual with unique talents and needs. A balanced approach to education nurtures all dimensions of the human being so that thinking, feeling, and doing are integrated and capable of functioning to help the unfolding child meet his or her full potential. Social and emotional intelligence are developed along with a growing cognitive ability to best prepare them for the challenges and opportunities of life. Rigorous traditional academics are infused with artistic and practical activities. Foreign language, handwork, gardening, cooking, woodworking, music, games, and movement enrich the academic main lesson.

Our next step is to present our charter proposal to the Three Rivers School District. Your support will greatly assist in the approval of the Woodland Charter School as an educational choice for families in our community.

If you are in support of the Woodland Charter School, please sign the attached letter of support or use it as a sample to create your own letter of support. Please send your letters to Woodland Educational Initiative, PO Box 185 Williams, OR 97544.

For more information on Waldorf education explore: whywaldofworks.org.

Please join our Google Group: http://groups.google.com/group/woodlandcharterschool, to stay informed about the Woodland Charter School’s news and events.

Thank you!
Woodland Charter Council
PO Box 185
Williams, OR 97544
www.woodlandcharterschool.org
info@woodlandcharterschool.org

Letter of Support for the Woodland Charter School
To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for the approval of the Woodland Charter School proposal for sponsorship by the Three Rivers School District (TRSD). I am a resident of the Applegate Valley and I believe that the Woodland Charter School will be an incredible asset to the TRSD and be of great benefit to the children, families, and local community for the following reasons:

- The Woodland Charter School will fill a long-standing need in our community for an alternative to traditional public education.

- Many families here have home-schooled, cooperatively educated, hired a private teacher, driven to choice schools in town, or opted for some blend of these approaches for years. There is a strong commitment amongst Applegate Valley parents to be actively involved in their children’s education and to create an educational alternative for their children.

- However, as families have attempted to sustain something outside of the public school system it has proved: either difficult financially for families to maintain; wearisome for children to spend long hours commuting; that people end up relocating to town to have greater access to educational options. Also, money that would be helping to fund TRSD is often going to other school districts in Medford and Ashland. By integrating these families into the public school system, TRSD will have more financial support for their educational services.

- Woodland Charter School would provide an educational option for “at-risk students”, which can increase their chances of educational success. One of the definitions of “at-risk” is children living at or below the poverty rate. The TRSD population has a relatively high rate of poverty, with Applegate having 55% and Williams 82% poverty enrollment. These children need educational options that will help them to move beyond their economic limitations and have equal opportunity and access to educational options.

- Woodland Charter School will work to collaborate with existing public schools in the Applegate Valley to unite and enrich local students in the Three Rivers School District. Potential areas for partnership include: sports programs, music and fine arts programs, and community celebrations.

I support the approval of the Woodland Charter School to serve students in our community. I value the Woodland Charter School’s mission and would be happy to see a school of choice in our community.

Sincerely,

____________________________________________________
Signature      Date

____________________________________________________
Name (print full name)

____________________________________________________
Street Address

____________________________________________________
Email Address (optional)    Phone (optional)

Mission: The Woodland School is a Waldorf-based public Charter School forming in the Three Rivers School District. Our school seeks to kindle a lifelong love of learning by providing a developmentally appropriate, arts-integrated curriculum which engages the whole child. Rich academics interwoven with human and nature studies foster a sense of belonging within the human community and a reverence for the beauty of the natural world. Our school thrives with on-going family involvement and inspires the support of the greater community.