

“From Farm to School”

Introducing High Mowing, a Waldorf Day and Boarding School (K-12) and Summer Campus for the Waldorf High School Teacher Education Program (WHiSTEP) of the Center for Anthroposophy and the Waldorf Teacher Education Program of Antioch University New England

It lies off the beaten track, but not too far. It sits on the top of a hill, but not too high. The mowing [New England name for “hayfield”] slopes to dark pine woods with blue hills glimpsed beyond at the edge of sight.

Not too far, not too high – but high enough for breadth of view and far enough for perspective on a busy world and a frantic struggle to get somewhere. Far enough and high enough to lead to a finding of values and goals, enhanced by the beauty of nature and the wing of sun, moon, and stars over the endless quiet of the hills.

This is High Mowing.

With these words Beulah Emmet—founder of the first (and to this day only) Waldorf boarding and day school in North America—introduced the school she had started during the darkest days of World War II. Previously a working farm built a decade before the publication of the U.S. Declaration of Independence, the property was purchased by Mrs. Emmet in 1929 as a summer home for her children, then converted into Waldorf school in 1942. The original houses and barns are long gone, but the mood of a New England farm still hovers over the twin campuses of a boarding high school sitting atop Abbot Hill and, more recently, an adjacent early childhood and elementary school (Pine Hill) across the road. According to legend, the hilltop was venerated by its original inhabitants as a sacred place of spiritual communion.

A little-known fact: at its inception, High Mowing offered the full educational palette of twelve grades – for the high school students on the present campus, and for elementary school children in what was called “The White House”, a large private home located about a mile up the road from the farm. With the end of the war the elementary grades were gradually discontinued, then reconstituted some 30 years later as the Pine Hill Waldorf School, which was initially located several miles from Abbot Hill and then, as of 1985, on a site across the street from High Mowing. Pine Hill eventually merged with High Mowing in 2017 to form a full K-12 boarding/day school.

For several decades, the campus has played host each summer to several conferences and training programs, including the Waldorf High School Teacher Education Program (WHiSTEP) of the Center for Anthroposophy (CfA) since 1996 and the Waldorf Teacher Education Program of Antioch University New England as far back as 1983. It is important to recognize that the grounds also house year-round some dozen High Mowing faculty, for whom the campus is their “home”. It is also a favorite place for Waldorf faculty and school alumni from around the world to visit, enjoy spectacular sunsets over Frye Field next to the school, or celebrate important reunions and festivals including the occasional wedding or other significant family event. We are honored to share this beautiful site with so many teachers and students who for more than 80 years have engaged in the practice of Waldorf education.

[--- add High Mowing/Pine Hill School “guidelines”]