

HYDE SCHOOLS

An Overview

Joseph W. Gauld founded Hyde School in 1966 in Bath, Maine in response to a system of education he believed had become overly preoccupied with students' talents and insufficiently focused on their character.

An AP Calculus teacher in the '50s and '60s, he once found himself giving his highest grade to a very bright student with a poor learning attitude and his lowest to a classic "plugger" with genuine curiosity who embodied and upheld those qualities the school claimed to value. This circumstance caused him to wrestle with what he perceived to be a conflict of priorities. He chose to rebel against the status quo and founded Hyde School in search of a new approach, one that would value *attitude* more than aptitude, *effort* more than ability, and *character* more than talent. Rather than orient his curriculum around five subjects, he focused on five words—*Courage, Integrity, Leadership, Curiosity and Concern*—and began to incorporate them into every facet of the program.

The Hyde of today continues to uphold the Five Words as the core values on its boarding campuses in Maine and Connecticut and in its public school initiatives.

Hyde's program has three emphases:

- **Character development**—the primary objective in a Hyde education. Character is not an "add-on" at Hyde. It is the foundation from which curriculum is developed.
- **Family renewal**—results from real parent participation. The parents are *not* involved to support the work of the faculty; they work to develop their own character. The Family Education Program is one of the distinctive components of Hyde's character-based curriculum.
- **College preparation**—more than 95% of Hyde graduates attend four-year colleges.

Although some schools might match or exceed Hyde's performance in one or two of these areas, Hyde's proven record of successfully preparing students for lifelong learning establishes it as the *only* choice for prospective families who accept the challenge of all three.

In recent years, Hyde has received national recognition. In 1993, Joseph Gauld's experiences were published in his book *Character First: The Hyde School Difference*. Television shows, such as ABC's *20/20*, CBS's *60 Minutes*, and NBC's *The Today Show* have aired full segments on Hyde, and the Hyde character concept has been featured in publications such as *Education Week*, *Insight*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The Boston Globe*, and *The Wall Street Journal*.

This recognition has been accompanied by significant growth. In 1993, the Hyde Leadership School of Greater New Haven was founded, enrolling 200 students in grades 9–12. In 1999, the Hyde Leadership Public Charter School (HLPCS) of Washington, DC opened its doors, and today enrolls 700 students in grades K–12. A recognized leader of Washington's charter schools, HLPCS received full accreditation from the Middle States Schools and Colleges in 2003. HLPCS is the only accredited K–12 public school in Washington, DC.

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