

Hyde seeks to open educational center

● Its nationally-recognized emphasis on character development would be passed on to public schools.

By **DENNIS HOEY**
Staff Writer

BATH — The founder of the Hyde School hopes to open an educational center this fall to teach the private boarding school's innovative methods to public schools.

Joseph W. Gauld, who founded Hyde School in 1966, wants to use \$900,000 from private foundations to open the Hyde Training Center by September. The center would be off Hyde School's Bath campus, in a leased building staffed with Hyde teachers.

The Hyde School has 180 students, and stresses character development using a mix of activities and group therapy involving students and parents. It has been nationally recognized.

"My lifelong dream has been to

bring Hyde's educational philosophy to every kid in America," said Gauld. "Maine would be nice since I'm from here."

All funds have been received by Hyde, but Gauld said he must wait until May 12 to learn whether one of the funding foundations, which contributed \$500,000, will let that money be spent on the center. There would be no cost to the public school system chosen to kick off the program.

Gauld said the foundations involved include the Donner Foundation of New York City, the William E. Simon Foundation of New Jersey, Teleflex Foundation of Valley Forge, Pa., and an anonymous benefactor.

If donors give their consent, Gauld's next step will be to find a Maine school system willing to commit its staff and students to a four-year training program.

Gauld, president of the Hyde Foundation, said he has sent inquiries to four school systems about the training center.

Portland Superintendent Thomas

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GAULD

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K. Edwards will visit the campus May 15, and Wells Superintendent Robert Kautz said he is interested in the Hyde offer.

School officials from Brunswick and Bath said they are not interested this year.

Kautz said he met Gauld last September, after a speech Gauld gave to Wells High School students. Kautz' staff has kept in contact with Gauld since then.

Kautz said he has been impressed with Gauld's philosophy. "The part that really struck me was, if the family is involved in a student's learning, the student will learn more," Kautz said.

Said Portland's Edwards: "I don't know anything about Hyde School, but I plan to learn more. He is promoting something and I'm always looking for ways to help young people learn."

The training center staff would select teachers, and ninth-grade students and parents based on personal interviews. Gauld said he wants only people who want to learn and commit to the program.

Those selected would attend classes of 30 people for at least a week of initial exposure to Hyde's methods and philosophy. Training would continue throughout the next three school years, and would include visits by Hyde teachers to the public school classrooms and monthly meetings between teachers, students and parents.

Another component of the training center, the wilderness outpost program, would send students and parents on an outdoor adventure to foster a sense of togetherness.

The Hyde philosophy is that every child is gifted with a unique potential that defines his or her destiny. By emphasizing character development in the classroom, in sports, and in performing arts, Hyde teachers try to tap that potential.

Hyde educators believe academic achievement will follow after a child has developed character.

"Everywhere, (school) budgets are suffering. People are crying for reform. We're prepared to offer money for true reform," Gauld said. "We're saying, 'You've got a choice. Stay the way you are or try our method.' A lot of people are talking about reform, but there is a time for talk to end."

In a related expansion move, Gauld said Hyde School plans to open the Hyde Preparatory School of Springfield (Mass.) in September 1992. It is also exploring the possibility of starting a satellite school in Washington, D.C.

Gauld said 650 families in the Springfield public school system have agreed to enroll in the training center.

Springfield teachers, students, and parents will be brought to Maine for training before the school there opens in September 1992.

HYDE SCHOOL. BATH.

Article about the hopes of Joseph W. Gauld, founder of Bath's Hyde School, to use \$900,000 in grants from private foundations to open the Hyde Training Center, to teach the schools innovation methods to public schools. The center would be located off campus in Bath. Details.

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