



CONTACT: Julie Kaviar, (781) 292 – 2154
JKaviar@WalkerCares.org

Danielle Wetmore Joins Walker as Principal of The Walker School

Needham, Mass. - Walker, a non-profit leader in special education, behavioral health and residential treatment for children and youth, is pleased to announce the recent hire of Arlington resident, Danielle Wetmore, to fill the role of Principal of The Walker School. Wetmore brings over a decade of experience working for programs that serve children facing social, emotional and behavioral disabilities.

“After learning and growing with the Walker team, I am honored to continue my professional career with the Walker School as a leader in the community,” said Danielle Wetmore, Principal for The Walker School. “Throughout my career, I have built a deep understanding of children facing behavioral health challenges by coupling theoretical knowledge with direct-care work experience. My energy, enthusiasm, and experience with children facing social, emotional and behavioral difficulties will help me lead Walker’s expert team of teachers, teaching assistants and child care workers to meet the emerging special education needs of children and youth who require our support to learn.”

As the new Principal, Wetmore is committed to child-centered, family-focused culturally-competent care and strength-based treatment. As the senior administrator responsible for the day-to-day operations of The Walker School, Wetmore maintains primary oversight of academic curriculum and compliance with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, including implementing Common Core Standards and Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Wetmore also works closely with the Director of Residential and Educational Programs, the Clinical Director and the Director of Milieu Services to assure the continuity, safety and effectiveness of all direct care services at Walker’s Needham Campus.

Most recently, Wetmore worked as an Educational Coordinator for The Walker School where she developed a program for students with average to above average IQ's who have behavioral difficulties and are on the autism spectrum or have challenges in executive function and social pragmatics. In that role since 2012, Wetmore was responsible for assisting teachers in developing Individualized Education Plans, chairing team meetings, writing Educational Assessments, developing and implementing trainings in various areas, including but not limited to executive functioning, autism spectrum disorders, various areas of academics, and the Social Thinking® curriculum.

Previously, Wetmore was a Teacher with The Walker School for seven years, leading classrooms with up to twelve students and three adults including child care workers and teacher’s assistants. In that role, she developed multisensory lessons and units in

reading, math, writing, social studies, science, organization, life skills and Social Thinking®. She also wrote Individualized Education Plans, developed Individual Crisis Management Plans, and conducted yearly Woodcock-Johnson III tests for students.

Wetmore holds a Master's Degree in Special Education, Moderate Disabilities, K-8, with her work and research focused on students on the autism spectrum. She also holds a Massachusetts certification in Special Education, Moderate Disabilities, K-8 initial license, and an Elementary Education preliminary license. She holds a Bachelor's of Science in Sports Management from Southern New Hampshire University.

The Walker School is a coeducational, private K-8 special education academic program, with integrated intensive clinical, occupational therapy, and speech and language services. Significant individualized support allows students to address behavioral, social, and emotional skills throughout the school day, in and out of the classroom. Serving 80 students, approximately half live with the Needham Campus residential program and others live at their home or community setting. While maintaining a safe environment for children and staff, The Walker School focuses on providing quality and effective academic curriculum, behavior and classroom management, and individualized auxiliary educational services. Walker School staff closely collaborate with the Director of Family Connections to integrate families and caregivers into programming and facilitate ongoing parent communication.

Walker is seeking to hire motivated, energetic and reliable people who are willing to learn and want to make a difference in the lives of children and families. Walker is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer committed to diversity in the workplace. Walker is now offering multiple shifts, including for residential child care workers, with flexible start dates. To learn more about careers at Walker, visit:

<http://walkercares.org/about/career.asp>

About Walker, Inc.

Founded in 1961, Walker serves exceptionally vulnerable yet resilient children and youth facing complex social, emotional, behavioral and learning challenges. Walker's effective evidence-based and innovative therapeutic and academic programs positively impact nearly 20,000 children and youth each year throughout Greater Boston, the North and South Shore, as well as in Central Massachusetts. Through campuses in Needham and Watertown, community-based clinical and youth development services, professional seminars, consultations and out-posted Walker staff in public schools, Walker's professionals partner with these children and youth, their families and communities to nurture hope, develop lifelong skills, and build their capacity to be successful in their community. To learn more, please visit us at WalkerCares.org or Facebook.com/WalkerCares.

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