

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Elementary Education Grace Trail in United States opening in Hamden, Connecticut.

Ribbon-Cutting opening scheduled at Hamden West Woods Elementary School on May 25th.

(Hamden, CT)

School and town officials in Hamden, Connecticut will open a new first-of-its-kind elementary Grace Trail at West Woods Elementary School on May 25th at 10:00 AM with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony (rain date of May 26th) that includes Hamden School officials and Anne Jolles, the founder of Grace Trail, Inc. Afterwards, all students and staff are invited to explore the Grace Trail, which is opened for public use after school hours and on weekends.

The West Woods School trail was installed through a close working partnership between the Town of Hamden, Connecticut, Hamden Board of Education, West Woods School PTA, with the special support and leadership from elementary teachers Ann Marie Blake and Kristen Bell, and West Woods Principal Dan Levy. The Trail was created through a license agreement with Grace Trail, Inc.

Grace Trail[®] is a collection of unique, tailored walking trails located around the United States, conceived by Anne Jolles in 2000 as she was struggling with challenges in her own life. She discovered that self-reflection and walking, coupled with the five powerful Grace Trail questions, provided immeasurable benefits in her, including developing an emotional resilience that countered her daily stressors. Each unique trail is tailored to fit its unique physical location and purpose – whether located in rural and urban venues, public parks, colleges, businesses, churches, hospitals, retirement facilities and veteran’s homes. Or in the present case, an elementary school. The Trail’s Welcome Map and the five Trail sign letters (G-R-A-C-E) and related questions have been installed at the West Wood School so trail walkers can explore the questions while walking, and are encouraged to stop at any letter station, consider the question, and relate the answer to their own life. The signs are interactive, and may be scanned to display additional information on a user’s phone screen, or allow users to share trail photos with other connected trails. West Woods School Principal Levy stated, “the Grace Trail at West Woods School will be an effective complement to our efforts to promote positive school climate and will provide for healthy movement breaks during the school day.”

An enthusiastic Jolles reiterated, “I’m thrilled that Grace Trail is opening in Hamden. The West Woods School Grace Trail will be the first elementary educational Grace Trail in the USA and provide the school community a place to walk, think, question, reflect, share, and enjoy.”

Your Trail Starts Here.... for more information about sponsoring and installing your own Grace Trail location, a Trail for a special temporary event, holding a larger Trail Event, sponsoring a sign, or even learning about our permanent or temporary Trail Kits[®], please visit Grace Trail, Inc. at <https://gracetrail.com/>

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