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Kathleen Hanson Joins Mustard Seed School

An important new addition as Upper School Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator

February 13, 2006, Hoboken, NJ – Kathleen Hanson joins Mustard Seed School (MSS) faculty this month as the Coordinator of Upper School Curriculum and Instruction (Grades 4 – 8). Holding graduate degrees from both Fordham University and the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto, Hanson has specialized in philosophy of education and has more recently pursued doctoral studies in urban school leadership at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Through her studies and experience, Hanson discovered particular needs of children that help them excel. "In an urban, Christian school, there should be a peculiar toughness, a heartfelt search for truth, a delight in knowledge, and a stubborn love for people. When these qualities are embodied in school programs, children always live and learn beyond our expectations."

Hanson has a long and rich experience as both a classroom teacher and principal. Ten of her 17 teaching years were spent at Mustard Seed School, where she contributed to the development of the school's first grade program.

"These early years at Mustard Seed," said Hanson, "are the years in which I realized that when art, science, celebration, and service merge, children learn to more fully engage the world, solve complex problems, and envision new possibilities." "It is this experience", she added, "that drives my current research about the integral relationship between imagination and expertise.

Since teaching at Mustard Seed, Hanson has served as a teacher and also for more than three years as a principal in the city of Lynn, Massachusetts. There she established a Gender Equity Plan for Math and Science, a School Choice Agenda, an Early Literacy Initiative, and Middle School Curriculum Frameworks that were grounded by a concern for social responsibility.

Now, that Hanson has returned, her vision has expanded. "As an educator and administrator, I want every child and teacher who walks through our door to learn to care deeply about ideas and each other, to imagine things beyond their experience, and to ask questions until their brains hurt. This has been part of a Mustard Seed tradition that I intend to carry and build in the years to come."

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