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CONTACT:

Pamela Mumm

Barlow Park Charter School Governance Council Chair

mumm.pamela@gmail.com

NEW CHARTER SCHOOL OPENS ITS DOORS AT BARLOW PARK

Ripon Area School District's newest charter school, Barlow Park Charter School, will welcome its first students this September. Barlow Park Charter School, which is housed within Barlow Park Elementary School, will consist of three kindergarten classrooms, one first grade classroom, and one second grade classroom. The mission of Barlow Park Charter School is to offer purposeful play-based learning opportunities for K-2 learners. Barlow Park Charter School is competency-based, which means that literacy and math will have learners working in flexible groups based on each individual student's needs.

The opening of Barlow Park Charter School will coincide with the official opening of the new nature playground at Barlow Park Elementary School.

The planning and implementation period for the school took place throughout the 2019-20 academic year and summer, amidst the coronavirus pandemic. This posed a particular challenge for a charter school that has as its tagline, "It takes a village," and emphasizes community building and social-emotional growth as essential for students' development.

"Despite the challenges our team faced," says Tanya Sanderfoot, principal of Barlow Park Charter School, Barlow Park Elementary School, and Journey Charter School, "we are ready to have our students back to experience all the benefits of play- and competency-based learning. We think our individualized approach to teaching will be particularly effective for students, many of whom have not been in a classroom since March."

For more information about Barlow Park Charter School, see

<https://www.ripon.k12.wi.us/schools/barlowcharter/about/barlow-park-charter-school.cfm>.