

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Richmond Friends School and Pauline Trueblood Childhood Development Center to Merge**

RICHMOND, INDIANA - The Richmond Friends School (RFS) will assume operation of the Pauline Trueblood Childhood Development Center effective July 1, 2016.

The Friends School is currently a Pre-Kindergarten through Sixth grade independent school founded in 1971 and located on West Main Street. Trueblood is a Preschool serving children from 3-6 years of age. Both are rooted in Quaker values, with Trueblood being located on the campus of Earlham College. Trueblood opened in 1955 and was named after Pauline Trueblood, the first wife of Elton Trueblood, noted Quaker author and theologian.

Leaders from both schools look forward to the transition. "It's a perfect match in terms of our philosophy and approach to working with children," says RFS Head of School Marcie Roberts. "Trueblood has always been a warm, welcoming place for children to learn and play."

Trueblood Director and Lead Teacher Emily Kendall also spoke to the similarities of the schools. "The classroom cultures are very similar. We think it will be a seamless transition for the children and a really good fit."

There has always been a strong connection between the two, in part due to the shared child-centric approach and background of both. "Over the years we've had many families transition between Trueblood and the Friends School," Roberts added. "We're very excited about the Preschool to Eighth grade model and think it's something our community needs. We think it's a win-win."

The Friends school recently announced it will be adding seventh and eighth grades starting in the fall of 2016. Because of these expansions, Trueblood board chair and parent Laura Brazil said, "The 'where do we go next' question doesn't exist. It's a natural transition." Trueblood leaders hope aligning with RFS will provide opportunities for stability and growth. Brazil added, "We're very excited about the merger, it just makes a lot of sense."

Roberts continued, "Whether families are with us only through their Preschool years or choose to stay through middle school, Richmond Friends looks forward to offering our unique education to more students throughout early childhood to adolescence."

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*Located in Richmond, Indiana, Richmond Friends School is a PreK-6th grade independent Quaker school founded in 1971 and committed to providing a quality educational experience for each child within a community explicitly framed by principles of the Religious Society of Friends.*