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**For Immediate Release**



## **New Mesa County Charter School Experiencing Record Breaking Growth**

Juniper Ridge Community School, a relatively new charter school in School District 51, has just started its third year and has already grown by 70 students, nearly 40%, since last school year. The number of charter schools, and attendance in charter schools is growing rapidly nationwide but a 40% growth in one year is unprecedented so far.

What makes Juniper Ridge Community School (JRCS ) so unique? For starters, it is the unique curriculum that it offers. Boasting a “Waldorf-inspired” curriculum, the school offers an education that is rich in arts, music, and humanities while still exuding academic excellence.

“Parents are looking for schools that offer an experience and curriculum that is different from the standard”, says Administrative Director, Patrick Ebel who is also one of the founders of the school, “we believe that the best learning takes place when you take the time to build relationships with the children. Learning is a human endeavor, not the manufacturing of a product”. Donald Samson, Director of Curriculum says, “We educate the whole child - head, hands and heart”.

JRCS has no plans of slowing down in the near future. In fact, they plan to add a high school program next year and they are currently looking for a new location that will better be able to accommodate their growing school.

For anyone interested in learning more about Juniper Ridge Community School, they will be holding informational meetings on September 2nd and 9th at 6:00pm at 640 24-1/2 Road in Grand Junction. They still have a few enrollment spots available in various grades.

### **About Juniper Ridge Community School**

Juniper Ridge Community School (JRCS) is a tuition free charter school and is open to all students in Mesa County. It offers a curriculum that is rooted in the Waldorf tradition and offers a unique learning style new to the Grand Valley. A great body of research suggests that the Waldorf approach with its distinctive understanding of child development helps all children, regardless of socio-economic status, reach remarkable academic and personal success. Although Waldorf schools have been around for nearly 100 years, they are usually tuition-based and often inaccessible to all but a small tier of students. JRCS believes this outstanding educational model should be available to all children, regardless of finances, which is at the heart of the creation of this outstanding school.

For more information about Juniper Ridge Community School, please visit the school website at [www.juniperridgeschool.org](http://www.juniperridgeschool.org), or call 970-986-8219.

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