



NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMON
Baccalaureate Service

— Saturday, May 24, 2025, 5 pm —
Memorial Chapel

NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMON
Baccalaureate

Order of Exercises



FANFARE AND PROCESSIONAL	“Pomp and Circumstance,” Op. 39, No. 1 Sir Edward Elgar (1857–1934) Arranged by James D. Ployhar (1926–2007)
WORDS OF WELCOME	The Rev. Lee-Ellen Strawn P’21, ’23, ’26, NMH Chaplain
CLASS OF 2025 HYMN	“We Would Be One”
MOMENT OF SILENCE	Mary H. Hefner P’06, ’08, ’11
SPECIAL MUSIC	Sara Carrion ’25, original piece
CLASS OF 2025 VALEDICTORY ADDRESS	Rose Wu
SCHOOL SONG	“Jerusalem”
HONORING OF RETIREES	Brian H. Hargrove, Head of School
SEND-OFF BLESSING	The Rev. Lee-Ellen Strawn
SUNG BENEDICTION	“The Northfield Benediction”
RECESSIONAL	Craig K. Sandford, Accompanist

*Please turn off cellphones
during the ceremony.*

CLASS OF 2025 HYMN
“We Would Be One”

Lyrics by Samuel A. Wright (1919-2016)
Music by Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)

Singing led by Keona Burch '25 and Jasper Neff '25
The audience is invited to stand and sing.

We would be one as now we join in singing
our hymn of love, to pledge ourselves anew
to that high cause of greater understanding
of who we are, and what in us is true.

We would be one in living for each other
to show to all a new community.

We would be one in building for tomorrow
a nobler world than we have known today.

We would be one in searching for that meaning
which bends our hearts and points us on our way.

As one, we pledge ourselves to greater service,
with love and justice, strive to make us free.



SCHOOL SONG
“Jerusalem”

C. Hubert Parry (1848–1918)
Text by William Blake (1757–1827)

Singing led by Patience Beasley '25 and Rigel Velez '25

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
Among these dark Satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire.
Bring me my spear! O clouds unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I will not cease from mental fight;
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
Till we have built Jerusalem
In ev'ry green and pleasant land.



THE NORTHFIELD BENEDICTION

Lucy Rider Meyer (1849–1922)

Singing led by Alexandra A. Ludwig, Director of Choral Programs

The Lord bless thee and keep thee.
The Lord make his face shine upon thee,
And be gracious unto thee,
And be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up her countenance,
Their countenance upon thee,
And give thee peace,
And give thee peace.



RETIREE | DIANE ARENA P'08, '11, '14, '16

Diane arrived on the Northfield campus with her family in 1998 and has served in a variety of roles, including dorm head, history teacher, associate dean, class parent, and coach. In 2023, she was invited into NMH's illustrious Frida Jordan Society, honoring her 25 years of experience. In addition to all she has given to NMH, she and her husband, Jack, raised four children in the NMH community: Emily '08, Patrick '11, Johnny '16, and Ellen '16.

As a teacher, Diane encouraged students to find their love of learning while challenging them to reach higher and grow as both students and people. She is known for her creative lesson plans, eliciting student interaction and independent thinking. Her students note that Diane is welcoming and cares about them as individuals. She has always been available to help students and make history come alive for them. Her willingness to give feedback on every assignment is legendary. Students appreciate that she is an advocate for them when they need it and works hard to know each student individually.

In much the same vein, while serving as a dorm head and an associate dean, Diane was admired for her ability to both hold the line and listen carefully. It is never easy to be the disciplinarian, but she made sure students felt cared for and heard.

A lifelong athlete herself, Diane served as the head coach for girls' varsity lacrosse and JV field hockey. She brought her passion and competitiveness to the varsity level and a sense of fun to novices at the JV level. Her philosophy has always been to promote excellence and engagement while also enjoying the learning process.

In retirement, Diane is committed to staying connected to education and engaged with young people. Her recent trip with the Humanities II program reignited her commitment to travel extensively in retirement, both in the U.S. and abroad. The immediate future will find Diane on the Cape playing tennis and golf, taking long walks on the beach, and spending quality time with her grandchildren. Diane leaves big shoes to fill at NMH. We wish her well on her next adventures!

— Chris Edler, History and Social Science Department



RETIREE | MARY HEFNER P'06, '08, '11

Capturing the legacy of any highly impactful 40-year career in just 400 words would be a daunting task. Attempting to do so for Mary Hefner is impossible.

Mary arrived on this hill in 1985 with her favorite colleague, Craig, and immediately began to weave herself into the fabric of this place. She taught no fewer than 10 biology courses, chemistry, environmental studies, and the science of farming (that's not even a complete list) and served two terms as Science Department chair. She lived in Crossley and Hayden and was the dorm head in Merrill-Keep.

Many know of Mary's accomplishments coaching cross-country, but she also coached all levels of girls' basketball, even contributing to a New England championship season as varsity assistant coach. She coached soccer and Ultimate, too. She even worked on the farm for a semester, pressing hundreds of gallons of cider and harvesting crops. Perhaps this sparked her development of the Science of Farming class and, later, the Farm Semester. Her love of the land clearly took root in her family, as all of her children — Evan '06, Ben '08, and Nora '11 — enjoy the outdoors. Ben and Nora have continued in the family business, becoming educators themselves.

Mary brought the wonders of the living world to life for students, not just within the four walls of a classroom but in the fields and forests, on the farm, and out in the greater world. She travelled with students to Costa Rica, New Zealand, Brazil, Spain, and Morocco. Her passion for getting her hands dirty, being in the woods, and experiencing the intricacies of biology and the environment firsthand ignited a spark of curiosity and a love of learning in so many students.

Mary's generous personality and infectious spirit permeate all that she does. Her students appreciate her patience, humor, and enthusiasm. Many among us have fond memories of her well-timed wit and the impromptu songs that would often echo through the stairwells of Cutler.

As Mary prepares to embrace retired life with Craig (who is already enjoying a two-year head start), we're profoundly grateful for all that she has contributed. Her legacy is a powerful one of generosity, unwavering support, and "nerd pride" that inspires us all. Mary has set a high bar for those of us who remain, challenging us to reach, uphold, and elevate that standard for future generations — and to have fun along the way. NMH is richer and more vibrant for the privilege of having Mary as a dedicated member of the faculty and the community. Luckily for us, Mary and Craig are still just down the street. Here's to many more years of walks in the woods, cycling, gardening, and traveling for you both.

— Michelle Hurley, Science Department



RETIREE | NATE HEMPHILL P'11, '14

Nate Hemphill is a builder in every sense of the word. Whether crafting with wood in his workshop or shaping the lives of students and colleagues, Nate has spent his career constructing something lasting, meaningful, and beautiful. As we celebrate his retirement, we reflect on the remarkable legacy he leaves behind at Northfield Mount Hermon — a place he has called home for 34 years.

After graduating from Dartmouth in 1985, Nate began his teaching career at St. George's School, where he had been a student, and he developed his craft there for four years. He completed his master's degree at Yale before coming north to NMH, where he has worn many hats: math teacher, director of faculty recruitment, associate dean of students, hockey and soccer coach, dorm head, Summer School assistant director, and, for 18 years, college counselor. In each of these roles, Nate has worked tirelessly with one goal in mind: doing what is best for his students. It's the experience of helping students learn and grow, and then sending them off prepared for life's exciting journey, that has kept Nate here for more than three decades. He sets high standards but meets his students with a spirit of shared purpose, always with a guiding hand and a devoted heart.

His success in hiring exceptional faculty was no accident. Nate understood what made a great teacher — not just because he evaluated résumés but because he lived it every day. He was in the classroom, in the dorm, and on the ice and the soccer field. He knew the pulse of student life and sought out educators who would thrive in the NMH community. His quiet, calm, and professional demeanor made him not only a trusted advisor but also a joy to work alongside.

Nate's influence reaches far beyond his professional roles. He and Mace raised two children — Cooper '14 and Mackey '11 — who, inspired by their example, chose careers in boarding school education themselves. His commitment to this life — the rhythm of school years, the late-night dorm duty, the personal investment in students' growth — has been unwavering.

Colleagues know Nate as kind, supportive, and level-headed. He is the person you turn to when you need wisdom, perspective, or simply a moment of grounded calm. His leadership has always been steady, never flashy, and is deeply rooted in the values that make NMH a special place.

As Nate retires, we recognize that he has poured his life into this community. His fingerprints are everywhere — from the faculty he helped hire, to the students he guided, to the colleagues he supported. Simply put, Nate M. Hemphill, NMH, is Northfield Mount Hermon at its finest.

Thank you, Nate, for building something extraordinary. Your legacy will stand tall here for generations to come.

— Greg Leeds P'16, '18, '22, Math Department



RETIREE | TED KENYON P'17, '20, '23

Ted arrived at NMH in the fall of 2000 after graduating from Hobart College, teaching at the Hun School, earning his MBA, and working in banking. He immediately established himself as the embodiment of the “triple threat,” contributing to nearly every area of school life during his 25 years. Known for his sense of humor and his warm personality, Ted has had a profound impact on both his students and his colleagues.

An anchor of the History Department, Ted has taught U.S. History Survey, Economics, and his true passion, Advanced Topics in U.S. History, to countless students who have sat in the cushioned seats that he provided in his classroom. A wonderful colleague and a dedicated teacher, Ted could often be found on weekends doing the things that he most enjoyed: grading papers or writing college recommendations in his classroom in Beveridge. Known for his humor and storytelling in the classroom, Ted entertained many students and parents with his creative “History Jeopardy” during Family Day classes.

Ted is a devoted student himself, always looking to broaden his horizons, increase his own knowledge, and discover ways to bring new material into his classroom. Whether it be attending workshops on Reconstruction, the Vietnam War, and white privilege or hauling a pop-up tent and two of his children across the country for six weeks following the route of Lewis and Clark while on sabbatical, Ted was devoted to bettering himself as a teacher and improving the classroom experience for his students.

Outside of the classroom, Ted has been involved in nearly every aspect of student life. He is a dedicated boarding school person who lived in-dorm for 12 years (including as dorm head in North Crossley) and served on seven other dorm staffs during his time. He chaired the Student Life Committee and served on the Judicial Committee for nine years. His contributions to athletics at NMH are equally impressive, including serving as the head coach of girls’ hockey, one of the proudest accomplishments of his career. He has coached boys’ hockey and lacrosse at the varsity and JV levels and recently coached JV field hockey, a sport he had never played.

In the boarding school world, one of the greatest compliments that can be paid is to call someone a “great school person,” and no one deserves this title more than Ted. We wish him and his partner, Kim, all the best as he heads off into retirement to read all those books that he never had time to read; to spend more time with his children, Martha '17, Charlie '20, and Robby '23; and to enjoy watching his beloved New York Rangers, Mets, and Giants. Ted, you will be missed!

— Jim Shea P'25, '27, History and Social Science Department



RETIREE | BILL ROBERTS

Bill Roberts has taught visual art at Northfield Mount Hermon School for 24 years, mainly Painting I and II, Advanced Drawing and Painting Portfolio, Intensive Studio, and Illustration/Visual Storytelling, as well as Plein Air Painting and Exploring Watercolor. In the past, Bill also taught Animation, Drawing and Composition, Photography, Video as Visual Art, Design Theory, and Printmaking. Basically, he has taught every course in the visual arts except Ceramics and Sculptural Forms.

Bill's students appreciate his strong guidance in skill-building, his high standards for their work, and his enthusiasm for mentoring capstones. Bill's students have made outstanding work, often winning Scholastic Art Awards or receiving the highest grade of 5 in AP Drawing portfolios. He won an Outstanding Educator Prize from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards in 2018 and a Yale Educator Award in 2024.

Bill completed his B.F.A. in illustration at MassArt in 1978 and worked as a graphic designer, art director and illustrator for 20 years prior to teaching at NMH. He enjoys plein air and studio landscape painting and can often be found painting in his studio on the visual arts floor in between classes, on weekends, and on breaks. He has exhibited his work in art galleries in Massachusetts, Vermont, and California. His landscape paintings exhibited at the annual Faculty Art Show are highly sought after, and he sold almost every painting exhibited at a solo show at the The Gallery in 2014, after a sabbatical spent in Arizona painting the western landscape. In 2022, Bill was awarded the Best Landscape Prize in the Northeast Fine Arts Exhibition.

When he's not painting, Bill can be found playing tennis on the courts. He coached the boys' varsity tennis team for 18 years, taught PE tennis, and strung rackets for students outside of his team. Although we will miss his candid humor and witty sarcasm, we are happy for him to find more time to paint, play tennis, and spend time with his loved ones.

— Mona Seno, Chair, Visual Arts Department



RETIREE | MARGARET VAN BAAREN P'16, '18, '21

Margaret began her long and fruitful NMH career in 1994, when she moved into Manchester with her husband, Harry. They lived there for 11 years, and Margaret was dorm head for 10. She's also done dorm duty in Wallace, Crossley, and Hayden. Margaret has been a wonderful advisor and a caring duty staff for many students in her 31 years here, winning the Annual Faculty Fellowship for Residential Life in 1998 as well as the 2004-2009 Perry Fellowship for excellence in Residential Life. She also coached volleyball, first as an assistant, then as head coach.

As director of the Center for Academic Strategies and Achievement, Margaret essentially created the program as it is now. She personally tutored countless students and helped them develop individualized learning strategies to meet their specific needs. Working with parents, teachers, advisors, and duty faculty, she advocated for students whenever and wherever needed. Through her daily interactions as well as annual workshops, she assisted us all in learning the best ways to help students navigate complex learning differences. Her CASA colleagues point out her deep care in matching students with an appropriate coach and keeping up with their progress in her warm, attentive manner. Margaret also taught DSJ classes and chaperoned NMH travel groups to Greece and China. She was awarded the 2014-2019 David F. Bolger Class of 1950 Chair for Excellence in Teaching in recognition of her tireless efforts in many areas across campus.

In addition to all of this, Margaret championed various causes and prioritized the needs of marginalized populations at school and in the world at large. In 2017, she donned a pink hat and took a group of about 25 students to the Women's March in Washington. She is frequently seen distributing food, packing grocery bags, and chatting with folks at the Mobile Food Bank or a Community Meal. She has donated many books to the NMH children's library and nursery school and would sometimes send books to colleagues in the mail after the mere mention that they would find it a helpful resource.

With her abundant sense of humor and love for connection, Margaret inspires all of us to be the best versions of ourselves. The entire van Baaren family: Harry in the communications office, Simon '16, Max '18, and Lily '21, have all brought unique and important contributions to the NMH community over the years, but she's earned the nickname the "real MVB": Most Valuable Baaren.

— Kensity Batchelder, P'19, '26, Director of Work and Service Learning



RETIREE | LISA YATES P'11, '13

Lisa Yates has been officially part of the NMH family for 18 years, but her journey here began even earlier, in the fall of 2005, when she and her husband, Mark, arrived on campus with their daughters Savannah '11 and Raleigh '13. A native of Tennessee, Lisa met Mark while they were both studying education at the University of Tennessee Knoxville, fittingly, in a first aid class. That first meeting sparked not only a lifelong partnership but a shared passion for education that eventually brought them both to NMH.

Throughout her time here, Lisa has done a little bit of everything. She has been a teacher, advisor, dorm parent, department chair, mentor, and community builder. Her steady leadership as chair of the World Languages Department left a lasting mark, and her calm, generous spirit helped guide the department through moments both big and small. Lisa is always ready with advice, encouragement, or a clever new classroom idea. And her legendary talent for organizing our offices means we'll probably still be calling her next year to ask where she put the markers or the glue.

Lisa's students know her for her patience, kindness, and ability to meet them exactly where they are while pushing them gently forward. Colleagues describe Lisa as the ultimate mentor and role model, someone who offers wisdom and support without ever losing her warmth or humor. As one colleague shared, "Lisa's encouragement and dedication have made a lasting impact on my confidence and growth as a teacher." It's no surprise that Lisa's middle name is Nobles, because we can't imagine anyone more noble in spirit, in leadership, or in heart.

Beyond academics, Lisa and Mark's Halloween parties became the stuff of legend. And in South Wallace, Lisa is known simply as "the mom on duty," offering gentleness and compassion to generations of residents.

Lisa's new life chapter takes her to Albany, where she looks forward to spending more time with her daughters and her three beloved granddaughters. We know she will continue to bring her warmth, energy, and nobility to everything she does. We will miss her steady presence, her wisdom, and her laughter, but we are deeply grateful for all she has given to NMH.

Thank you, Lisa, for everything. Keep living life fully, and never stop making Halloween the best holiday of the year!

— Juliana Ivette Cruz Martínez, World Languages Department



RETIREE | MARK YATES P'11, '13

“Teaching is just fun.”

Mark Yates has kept this idea at the forefront of his work with kids and colleagues as a teacher and coach at Northfield Mount Hermon. He is quiet and self-effacing by nature, but his students know the spirit of adventure and exploration that he has embodied every day in a 35-year career as a first-class educator.

Mark has taught nearly every course in the Math Department since he and his wife, Lisa, came to NMH in 2005. When he arrived, he appreciated the kind atmosphere, especially the mentoring he received from his colleagues and department chair. He has generously paid that experience forward in his many years of working with the Penn Fellow program as a teaching partner; he loves the team-teaching opportunity it gives him and the idealism and energy of his younger peers as they begin their careers in teaching. His favorite course continues to be Geometry, as it trains students' minds to lay out a logical argument and use deductive reasoning skills that will be useful throughout their lives. For 20 years, Mark has also served as the head coach of the boys' Ultimate team, organizing numerous tournaments and winning seven New England championships along the way.

Mark enlisted in the Navy at age 17 as a machinist mate and worked his way through nuclear power school to become an instructor in mechanical engineering, a role that he found he really enjoyed. After six years in the service, Mark enrolled at the University of Tennessee. The first person in his family to attend college, he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in education and began his career in teaching, first at the Webb School teaching physics and then at the McCallie School teaching math. Among a number of awards and fellowships he received for his teaching at McCallie and at NMH, he has been a three-time finalist for state teacher of the year and a winner of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. Mark used the money from the award to pay for two sets of braces for his growing family.

His family! Mark met Lisa in college in a first aid class, when she was a graduate student. His proudest accomplishment is their 36-year marriage and their girls, Savannah '11 and Raleigh '13, whom they raised here along with their nine cats and two dogs of record. He is very excited to be moving closer to his children and their families this summer, but we will really miss his kindness and empathy here on campus.

— David Reeder P'15, '17, '23, Science Department

