



Learn. Lead. Serve. Succeed!

July 30, 2018

Dear Alma Families,

I wanted to be the first to share some exciting news with all of you. We are submitting a request to the state to significantly increase our enrollment, which would allow us to open two additional K-8 campuses in New Bedford!

We're eager to be able to serve a greater number of scholars, including the children of your friends, coworkers and neighbors. It is because of all of your efforts to share your positive experiences that more and more parents are demanding a better education for their children. Thank you! We strongly believe more New Bedford families should have access to high-quality school options for their children.

This is not the first time we have asked the state to allow us to increase our impact in New Bedford. Many of you spoke up and supported our enrollment expansion of 90 scholars in 2017, which allowed us to bring on additional specialized staff like a school counselor. We truly hope each and every one of you will continue to advocate not only for your own child's education, but for the education of every child in New Bedford.

This application is just the first step in what will be a long term process. The state will hold a public comment period this fall. We hope you will choose to make your voices heard! The state's decision will then be announced in early 2019. If the state approves our request, we will move quickly to prepare for an August 2019 opening of the first new school with grades K-2 and 5. While we haven't yet finalized the locations for our new campuses, we see this as an opportunity to have a presence in other geographical locations in New Bedford. Should we expand, current families would have the opportunity to enroll at one of the new campuses if they so choose.

Regardless of whether the state approves our request, Alma del Mar will continue to be committed to fulfilling our mission of putting every scholar on the path to college and challenging them to be service-minded leaders.

Thank you to all of you who continue to choose Alma for your family. We look forward to working with you to make the dream of a better education a reality for more New Bedford families.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will Gardner".

Will Gardner