foreverDARROW

October 29, 2026 Town Hall—Key Takeaways

Two Campuses. One Community. | Including answers to questions raised during the Town Hall

Watch the Town Hall

1. Darrow Today—Growth with Purpose

Darrow began the 2026–27 school year with 275 students across two campuses.

- **140 students on Mountainside; 135 on Lakeside.**
- The near-term enrollment goal is 300 students, with growth guided by the quality of the student experience.
- Both student body presidents spoke about building friendships and shared traditions across the two campuses.
- Small classes, strong faculty relationships, a liberal arts education, and experiential learning remain central to Darrow.

This is one Darrow community, with more room to learn and grow.

2. Community & Belonging—One School

Building connection between Mountainside and Lakeside is intentional work.

- Monthly all-school gatherings bring students together, including September Convocation and October Fall Fest.
- Students attend one another's games and take part in additional shared events and activities.
- Student leaders are helping create the traditions and opportunities that unite both campuses.

3. Mountainside—Darrow's Historic Heart

Mountainside remains the heart of the school and an active part of Darrow's future.

- **All original campus buildings are in use** this school year.
- Preserving the Shaker heritage and addressing infrastructure, safety, and building improvements remain priorities.
- Future work will require thoughtful sequencing, historic preservation considerations, and responsible funding.
- The new Makepeace Sound Academy at Joline Arts Center is a tangible investment in Mountainside.

Mountainside is not being replaced or abandoned.

4. Lakeside—An Expanded Campus Already in Use

Lakeside is part of Darrow's daily educational and residential life while the school works toward permanent ownership.

- The approximately 740-acre property adds space for residential life, athletics, wellness, and outdoor learning.
- Mountainside and Lakeside are separate properties in New Lebanon and Canaan; they do not share a property boundary.
- The condition of Lakeside buildings, including exteriors, was raised during the Town Hall. A building-by-building repair schedule was not announced.
- Campus improvements must be considered as part of a phased, financially responsible plan.

5. Faculty, Dorm Life & the Daily Schedule

The transition to two campuses required careful staffing and residential coordination.

- Only a few additional faculty hires were needed; academic leadership coordinated recruitment and staffing.
- Some faculty teach on both campuses, with schedules that may include a morning on one campus and an afternoon on the other.
- Faculty housing is available at Lakeside; the exact mix of on-campus and local housing for new staff was not detailed.
- Lakeside uses **rotating faculty residential supervision** rather than one permanent duty parent in each dorm every day.
- Cottage 2 follows that rotation. Families seeking the current duty contact should reach the Residential Life team.

6. Hands-to-Work—Carrying a Tradition Forward

Hands-to-Work continues to connect learning, stewardship, and responsibility.

- **Mountainside: Mondays. Lakeside: Wednesdays.**
- Hands-to-Work is on the Lakeside schedule. The meeting did not provide details on the current crews, projects, or faculty assignments.
- The meeting did not confirm whether sessions on both campuses still follow the traditional three-hour format.

The traditional program remains important, even as the school adjusts to two campuses.

7. Arts & Music—The Makepeace Sound Academy

Darrow broke ground on October 26 at Joline Arts Center on Mountainside.

- Made possible by the generosity of Bill Makepeace '71 and Mary Makepeace.
- The new studio will expand student opportunities in recording, songwriting, music, and sound production.

- Summer use by musicians and recording groups is being explored as a possible auxiliary revenue opportunity; no confirmed rental program was announced.
- Construction is underway, with the completion schedule dependent on the work ahead.

This investment broadens what students can create while strengthening the historic campus.

8. Athletics—Expanded Pathways and Traditions

Athletics has expanded Darrow's visibility and provides another way for families to discover the school.

- The chat referenced approximately **140 hockey students** and **40 soccer students**. Official participation totals still need to be confirmed.
- Hockey students attending Darrow last year were enrolled as day students and housed at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts campus in North Adams.
- Darrow has not had a baseball team for roughly 13–14 years. Recent spring offerings have included lacrosse and softball.
- Student-athletes remain part of the school's academic and community expectations.

9. Enrollment—A Story Worth Sharing

At a time when many independent schools face enrollment pressure, Darrow's growth deserves attention.

- School leaders are scheduled to present about Darrow at a New York State independent-school conference.
- The school recognizes an opportunity to tell its story more broadly, while keeping enrollment growth aligned with the Darrow experience.
- Alumni and friends can help by connecting prospective families with admissions and sharing accurate news about the school.

10. Financial Stability—Two Separate Needs

Darrow was direct about the financial work that remains.

- The school identified an approximately **$5 million operating funding need** for 2026–27. The year was not presented as fully funded.
- Financing the Lakeside purchase is a **separate** requirement from operating support.
- The Lakeside purchase price is **$15.3 million**, not $15.4 million.
- No verified amount raised or committed specifically toward that acquisition was announced at the Town Hall.
- Operating gifts should not be counted as acquisition funding unless specifically designated for that purpose.

11. Securing Lakeside—Financing and Timing

Darrow is currently leasing Lakeside and has an executed purchase agreement in place.

- Appraisals for the three parcels are expected in early November and will help inform financing decisions.
- Financing discussions and philanthropic outreach are ongoing, with several options under consideration.
- December 31, 2026 remains our target for securing financing for the acquisition. This is not a confirmed contractual closing deadline.
- Leadership will provide additional updates as financing arrangements and the acquisition timeline become clearer.

12. Community Follow-Up—Staying Connected

Several practical questions received answers in the Town Hall chat.

- Open house information was scheduled for social media beginning Monday, November 2, so alumni can share it with others.
- A Zoom participant controls their own speaker or slide viewing layout; the meeting host cannot force the same view onto every device.
- Questions requiring additional confirmation include Hands-to-Work duration and crew implementation; official athletics participation totals; Lakeside exterior repair schedules; and acquisition-specific financing and contract terms.

Bottom Line

Darrow has grown, but its purpose has not changed. The two-campus model is intended to preserve the relationship-centered education and historic Mountainside community that define the school while creating the space and financial foundation for its future.

The immediate priorities are clear:

- Continue building one connected student community.
- Protect and improve Mountainside while developing Lakeside responsibly.
- Secure sustainable operating support and complete the Lakeside financing work.
- Report candidly on progress, decisions, and questions still to be resolved.

THANK YOU. ANY QUESTIONS?

advancement@darrowschool.org


Greetings from
DARROW SCHOOL
MOUNTAINSIDE
LAKESIDE

WELCOME

The Student Perspective

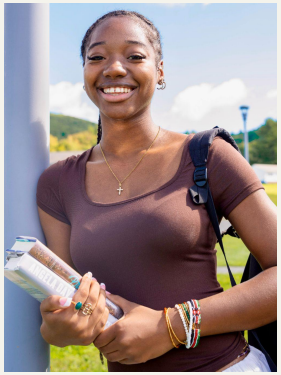
Student Body Presidents

t

Four Year Darrow Student

Three Years on Mountainside

Now on Lakeside



Lakeside President, Charnell ’27

First Year Darrow Student

Lives in Meacham

From Westfield, Massachusetts



Mountainside President, Emersyn ’27

Darrow Today | Two Campuses. One Community

275 students this school year



140 Mountainside



135 Lakeside

February: The Path Forward

FEBRUARY ESTABLISHED THE PRIORITIES.
OCTOBER REPORTS ON OUR PROGRESS

- ➔ Financial Sustainability: Establish a stronger, more sustainable operating model.
- ➔ Enrollment & Capacity: Grow enrollment while preserving the Darrow experience.
- ➔ Strategic Partnerships: Expand academic, athletic, and real-world learning opportunities.
- ➔ People, Programs & Facilities: Invest in faculty, programs, and our historic campus.

The Darrow Education

Our academic program remains.

Personalized Learning

Small classes and strong relationships with faculty who know their students.

Academic Challenge

Rigorous college preparation and opportunities for advanced study.

Learning by Doing

Hands-on experiences that connect classroom learning to the world beyond Darrow



The Darrow Education

Arts, Music, and the Student Experience

Creative Expression

Visual arts, music, theater, and opportunities to explore new interests.

Community & Belonging

Relationships, traditions, and shared experiences that connect students.

Learning by Doing

Hand-to-Work, stewardship, and shared experiences connect students to their community.

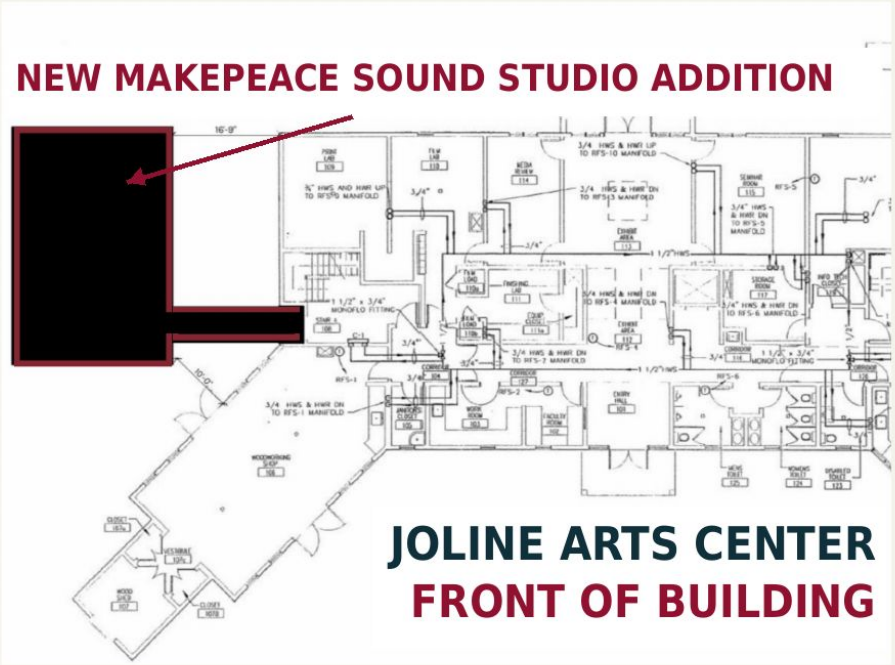

YAY MAKER

The Makepeace Sound Academy

Breaking Ground on a New Era of Music at Darrow

Made possible through the generosity of Bill Makepeace ’71 and Mary Makepeace.





Athletics

Opportunity and Achievement















College Athletic Commitments









The Evolving Independent-School Landscape

SCHOOLS WITH DECLINES

53%

of boarding-day schools experienced enrollment declines

2019–20 to 2023–24

NAIS 2023–24 Trendbook

MEDIAN ENROLLMENT

−7%

change in median enrollment at boarding-day schools

2018–19 to 2022–23

NAIS DASL

TUITION GROWTH

102%

inflation-adjusted independent-school tuition growth, versus 23% in family income

1990–2020

NAIS / U.S. Census

STUDENTS RECEIVING AID

~40%

of boarding-school students received financial aid

2024–25

NAIS 2024–25 National Tables

WHAT THE DATA SHOWS

Boarding schools face significant enrollment and affordability pressures, although outcomes vary across the sector. Sustained enrollment, a distinctive student experience, and financial sustainability remain essential.

Enrollment

Growth with Purpose



Enrollment Growth

300

Near-term student goal

Community & Belonging

One connected school across both campuses

Academic Opportunities

Challenging, individualized educational pathways

Athletics & Partnerships

Expanded programs and opportunities for students

The Heart of Darrow

Preserving Our History, Investing in Our Future

Mountainside isn’t going anywhere.

- ➔ Preserve our Shaker heritage and historic campus.
- ➔ Prioritize infrastructure, safety, and essential improvements.
- ➔ Explore rehabilitation and historic preservation opportunities.
- ➔ Develop a financially responsible, phased investment plan.

Expanding Darrow's Future

Creating Opportunity, Building a Stronger Darrow

Lakeside is already part of Darrow's daily life.

- ➔ Expand capacity to serve more students and programs
- ➔ Strengthen athletics, wellness, and experiential learning opportunities.
- ➔ Build academic and athletic pathways through strategic partnerships
- ➔ Foster one connected Darrow community across both campuses.

Securing Lakeside

Acquisition Update — October 2026



Securing the property remains our immediate priority.

Darrow's Financial Landscape

Two separate financial priorities. One long-term goal.

2026–27 / ANNUAL OPERATIONS

~$5M

Operating funding need

HOW WE BUILD SUSTAINABILITY

01 **MANAGE COSTS**

02 **STRENGTHEN RECURRING REVENUE**

03 **MOBILIZE PHILANTHROPY**

A SEPARATE CAPITAL REQUIREMENT

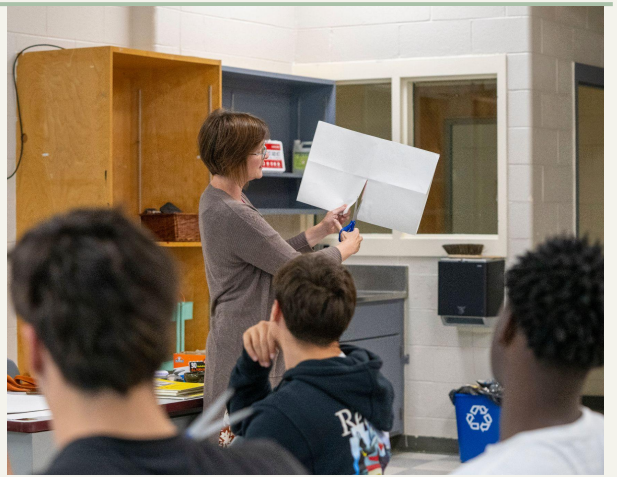
Lakeside acquisition

- ✓ Lease + purchase agreement in place
- • Appraisals expected early November
- … Financing not yet finalized

THE OBJECTIVE **Reduce dependence on annual operating gap funding.**













OUR COMMUNITY. OUR FUTURE.

Thank you for believing in Darrow.

Questions & Conversation






PYLE
PyleUSA.com





