



HEADWAYS for Fine & Performing Arts Directors: Valuing Creativity and Culture 2019-2020 Topics

HEADWAYS for Fine & Performing Arts Directors will be co-facilitated by Jill Muti, NCGS Trustee and Head of School and Tina Hirsig, Lower School Art Teacher at [Ashley Hall](#). Dates and times for the five discussions will be announced in mid-August.

❖ **Process vs. Product**

Topics to consider: Using a sense of play, tinkering, and innovation to foster the creative process. Visual Arts: diving deep into the creative process and strategies for thinking; when and how much do we teach skills and when to let the students take the lead in their own creativity/voice; and how to document the process of creativity through photos, narrative, and/or video for the purpose of reflection. Performing Arts: how does the process of preparation become as intrinsically valuable for the student as the performance. Innovation in the arts beyond technology.

❖ **Arts as Connection**

Topics to consider: Methods for successful collaborations (small groups and the entire school); the influence of Reggio Emilia and choice-based visual arts methods to promote individualized instruction and collaborative projects; leading with essential questions; the practice of a Common Place Book that connects disciplines and promotes reflection; arts curriculum alignment pre-primary through twelfth grade; do our students see themselves in our curriculum (specifically diverse populations)

❖ **Facilities, Scheduling, and Programs**

Topics to consider: Physical arrangement of teachers classrooms on campus and how it can enable a “culture of conversation;” environment as a third teacher (classroom set up, furniture, lighting, color, etc); scheduling for common planning time to promote collaborations; challenges for staffing course offerings as student enrollment ebbs and flows; campus vs. off-campus spaces

❖ **Visiting Artists**

Topics to consider: Developing a purposeful visit for artists in the school; scheduling, funding, and reaching as many students as possible; monthly visits vs. one consolidated week of workshops; workshops vs. lectures; collaborating with other departments on campus; expanding diversity through inviting artists in from global community

❖ **Public Purpose & Cultural Competency**

Topics to consider: Advocating for the arts with parents, colleagues, board, and administration; what does it mean to be a “cultured person” in the 21st century; what cultural competencies are valued in the 21st century; Eight Studio Habits of Mind research as a guide (reflect, stretch & explore, engage & persist, observe, understand arts communities, envision, develop craft, and express) is not only for the arts but for all disciplines; why not start with the arts and have curriculum grow from there; how may we go beyond our token few women to find and discuss women’s contributions (or oversights) in the arts (history revision)