



SEEDS OF WISDOM

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On Leadership

Teachers can start committees. We have a number of teachers who want to show their leadership and so they start committees that didn't exist at the school. There's also a chance to be a teacher mentor or a team leader, whether it's in your department. There are lots of leadership opportunities but you should always ask your direct supervisor if you want that opportunity because they can even send you to another school and say, "This teacher will be a really good mentor for you. You should connect with them."

On Independent School Culture

We have great benefits in independent schools, so that's one of the questions you should ask when you come in, "What is the school going to offer me besides just a salary and the engagement of children?" Also, our class sizes are smaller so the relationships you get to build between students and teachers is amazing and those are lasting relationships.

We believe that you can delve further into different subject areas, so if we're studying about sea life and a young student raises their hand to ask the question about whales, the teacher will stop, talk about whales for a little bit, and then restart the lesson. We are a curriculum based on the curiosity of our students.

On Starting as a New Teacher

Being a new teacher you really have to learn the culture. Even being a new administrator. I've only been head for four years and I felt like if I had come in and imposed rules on this school, I would've failed. I used my faculty and administration to help me learn the culture. I used our board to help me learn the parent culture. Ask a lot of questions, don't be afraid to say "I don't know."

If you come in and act as though you know everything, you're going to fail. You have to be willing to put yourself out there and ask lots of questions. You have to be willing to put yourself into learning mode and step out of that "I'm the one in charge."