

Blue Sky Thinkers



Blue Sky Innovative Education



“British elite private schools and their overseas branches: unexpected actors in the global education industry” ([Click Here](#))

“Our paper examines the opening of branches overseas (‘satellite colleges’) by elite private schools mainly located in England (‘founding colleges’), largely in emerging economies of the Middle East and southeast Asia. We trace the development of these ‘satellite colleges’ over three successive waves of growth, from opportunistic venturing in Thailand in the late 1990s to their recent rapid growth in numbers in a phase characterized by the market entry of new actors and geographic diversification.”

I spent a considerable number of hours researching, reading and thinking about this topic following a conversation with a Canadian school Head who asked my opinion on overseas “satellite” expansion. I now have a vast treasure trove of resources on this topic. Fascinating stuff.



“Innovation Hub at Northwood School” – ([Click Here](#))

“Northwood School’s commitment to excellence in academic programming now extends into a progressive 9,000+-square-foot facility in downtown Lake Placid. The flexible, open classroom and event space is a center for real-world application, creative thinking and community collaboration providing a hub for modern day learning for all of Northwood's students.”

This article outlines new space at Northwood School, and the amazing community-school partnerships plus connections and shared learning with universities in this new space. A must for schools thinking about innovation and maker spaces.






“The Innovative Schools Cooperative” ([Click Here](#))



From the website “The Innovative Schools Cooperative”, a national network of innovative independent schools, including renowned schools in New York City, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and more. Our schools represent the leading edge of education research, theory, and practice. Our laboratory schools model innovative practice that helps change how parents and families think about education, schooling, and student learning.”


Amazing opportunity to view the school profiles and websites of schools involved in the coalition. The site has eight schools highlighted at present. Each one offers some significant food for thought about how we might look at educating kids.

Blue Sky The Human Side of School Leadership



	<p>“How can principal leadership practices promote teacher collaboration and organizational change? A longitudinal multiple case study of three school improvement initiatives” (Click Here)</p> <p>“Theories of organizational change in the school context posit that principals and teachers act as change agents, innovating organizational practices, building collective knowledge around change, and supporting a positive climate for innovations.”</p> <p>Of all the reading I have done in the last month, I found this the single most impactful and interesting. Current, research based, with real world examples. A must read. If you want the summary, with bullet points, flip me an email.</p>
	<p>“Innovation for the Human Side of School Change” – Carney Sandoe (Click Here)</p> <p>Article that outlines the thoughts from a number of really influential people on school change.</p> <p>Tim Fish and the Strategy Lab to Grant Lichtman along with a number of examples of school improvement processes are specifically referenced in the article.</p>
	<p>“Looking Ahead: Why Relationships Must Drive School Innovation” (Click Here)</p> <p>Author Michael Nachbar from Global Online Academy shares reflections on a post-pandemic world and a dialogue with community members on relationship-based learning.</p> <p>Nachbar begins with lessons and learning from the Pandemic, but then moves to creating a “Portrait of an Educator” and creating a “Culture of Care”.</p>

Blue Sky School Life – Adult-Student Wellness

	<p>“One Trusted Adult” (Click Here)</p> <p>Website from the organization One Trusted Adult. “looking to ensure that every young person has accessible, boundaried, and caring trusted adults”</p> <p>I met with Brooklyn Raney, a Canadian, a few weeks back and she is awesome. Her program looks is deep and detailed for all grades, but I would say, personal, exactly what’s needed for Middle Schools. She also does speaking engagements on the critical role of Trusted Adults in young people’s lives.</p>
	<p>“Faculty and Student Wellness: Embracing the Interdependence” (Click Here)</p>

	<p>“Classroom behavior is, in the words of education professor Frederick Erickson, “interactionally generated.” We are “coproducing with students the very behavior that [we often take] as evidence of an individual characteristic of the student.” Students’ choices, their behaviors, are interdependent with the teacher’s, which means there is no world where a teacher’s performance and a student’s performance are separable.”</p> <p>This article from Brent Kaneft and the NAIS is a great conversation started for a PD session on the impact of our own wellness on the health of students. At the bottom of the article is a list of ideas to “promote teacher and, consequently student, wellness.”</p>
	<p>“This School Is a Model for Wellness and Student Learning. See Why” (Click Here)</p> <p>DESIGNING SCHOOLS THAT SUPPORT STUDENT AND STAFF WELL-BEING</p> <p>Have a look here for a series of videos from Sandy Springs Friends School and the concept designs in architecture that makes a school a “WELL” Certified school focusing on using design principles that, in the School Principals words where... “building campuses moving forward, we need to think about social-emotional wellness as one of the rubrics we use to design campuses.”</p>

Blue Sky School Admissions and Enrolment

	<p>Podcast from AISAP – “We Admit! The Impact of School Affordability with Mark Mitchell” (Click Here)</p> <p>“Mark Mitchell knows first-hand the transformative power and value of access to high-quality education and the impact that financial aid can have on a student's life. Now as the Vice President of NAIS, Mark has dedicated his career to making more opportunities available to families and students by challenging schools to be intentional and strategic in their affordability efforts.”</p> <p>Powerful questions and realizations around financial aid and affordability in this podcast from Mark Michell. Real life stories and specific steps forward. Interesting also that you can hear CAIS Executive Director share some thoughts on Admissions on the main site (Here)</p>
	<p>“Ethical Behavior & Best Practices for Admission Professionals” – AISAP (Click Here)</p> <p>“AISAP's 2010 Strategic Plan established as a goal the need to set guidelines for ethical behavior and best practices for the enrollment professional. This document was developed by a diverse group of AISAP member schools representing a cross section of the membership, to serve as a resource and guideline for ethical behavior and best practices.”</p> <p>If you don’t have this document, or an adapted one like it as part of your principles of good practice, perhaps it is time to give this some consideration.</p>



“Special Report: What Every Head Needs to Know About Enrollment Management” ([Click Here](#))

Why Enrollment Management Is Needed in Independent Schools

I’m sure much of what is here is not new for your admission team, (or ?) but they might do a little analysis around whether there are any gaps between the real and the ideal. This is a great resource that will help Head’s to have those conversations with Admission Directors.

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