

INSIGHT COLEARNING

August 23, 2021

Dear Students and Families,

Each year, Insight's faculty works together to develop an interdisciplinary theme that will catalyze our questions, animate and deepen our discussions, and facilitate cross-disciplinary observations and inferences throughout the year. Last year's theme was *Progress*. Now, because of *progress* in combating a dangerous pandemic, we are preparing to come together again for in-person learning, socializing, adventuring, and building community. Thus, we have selected *Healing* for this year's theme. The notion of healing has obvious relevance due to our current circumstances. Healing is an age-old construct as well, and the pursuit of healing has varied across cultures, communities, time periods, and settings throughout history. This year, we will not only explore healing as it applies to us immediately, but also as it has manifested over time in various domains. What can we learn from studying the histories and cultures of people who came before us and from analyzing their beliefs and healing practices? How does healing occur in the natural world, and what kinds of human interventions have been effective in promoting healing? As a community of learners who have experienced or observed harm, injustice, marginalization, oppression and suffering, how can we promote or support healing within our Insight community? How can we collaborate with community partners to build and/or advocate for tools, structures, programs, services, or partnerships that facilitate healing?

For me, Insight and the colearning community we are co-constructing provide mechanisms for processing the challenges of the day, developing knowledge and skills to address them, and forging the types of relationships that can sustain us and empower us as we take action now and in the years to come. I hope this will be true for you as well.

Many people ask me what type of student Insight serves. The answer is simple. Insight serves students that want to be part of Insight. If you ponder big questions or often ask why things are the way they are, Insight is a place for you. If you have a deep interest or strong passion that you want to spend time on during high school, Insight is a place for you. If you enjoy authentic and dynamic relationships with peers and teachers, Insight is a place for you. If you like to have time to do the hard work of learning for understanding, Insight is a place for you. If you are eager to help build a student-centered school that embraces and works for diversity, equity, and inclusion, Insight is a place for you. Insight is a thriving learning community that welcomes students with diverse learner profiles, interests, and experiences. In turn, Insight continues to evolve, fueled by the collective energy of all who participate. I'm grateful for each of you and look forward to working with you this year.



Susan Haws, Executive Director