

MISS PORTER'S SCHOOL



Elizabeth Simison, Ed.D.

Academic Dean

English Teacher

Elizabeth Simison is an accomplished educator and academic leader with over 20 years of experience in secondary and higher education. Currently serving as the academic dean at Porter's, she is dedicated to fostering innovative teaching practices and advancing mastery-based learning methodologies. She holds an Ed.D. in educational leadership from the University of Connecticut and completed a dissertation titled "Studying the Sensemaking of Educators: An Exploration of Teachers' and Administrators' Responses to Mastery Learning," and she has specialized in curriculum and instruction throughout her career.

Dr. Simison has a dynamic teaching portfolio that spans various educational contexts. She is an instructor in the Independent School Teaching Residency program at the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate

School of Education, where she works in reflective practice and teaching and learning strands. She also has taught undergraduate and graduate courses at institutions including the University of Connecticut and Tunxis Community College. Her expertise encompasses a broad spectrum of subjects, including academic writing, literature, disciplinary literacy and assessment practices.

At Miss Porter's School, Elizabeth has held multiple roles, including humanities instructor, instructor in the Institute for Global Education, assistant varsity swim coach and assistant varsity field hockey coach. She was recognized with the Sarah Porter Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2021 and served as an Innovative Teaching Fellow from 2020 to 2022. She began working at Miss Porter's through their summer programs in 2017, directing the Global Language and Leadership Institute, where she integrated lessons from young adult literature with leadership skills to empower young women.

Elizabeth is a prolific presenter and researcher, having contributed to national and international conferences including the National Association of Independent Schools, Global Educators Benchmark Group, International Coalition of Girls' Schools, National Council of Teachers of English and the Mastery Transcript Consortium. Her research interests include mastery-based pedagogy, educational policy and fostering student agency through equitable grading practices.

In addition to her academic achievements, Elizabeth has been deeply involved in mentoring educators and advancing institutional practices. She has collaborated on initiatives to improve grading systems, integrate

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digital literacy and create mission-driven global programming. Her leadership extends to roles on advisory boards, including the Connecticut Writing Project Leadership Council and the English Advisory Board for the University of Connecticut's Early College Experience program.

Elizabeth remains committed to educational excellence, equity and innovation, continually seeking ways to inspire both students and educators to achieve their fullest potential. Prior to her experience at Miss Porter's, Elizabeth worked at Bacon Academy in Colchester, Connecticut, and Martha's Vineyard Regional High School in Oak Bluffs, Massachusetts.

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