

MISS PORTER'S SCHOOL



Nelle Andrews

Dean of Curriculum, Teacher - Humanities

Nelle Andrews joined Miss Porter's in 2018 as an English teacher, head field hockey coach, and varsity assistant lacrosse coach. She was appointed chair of the English department in the spring of 2019 and also served as the director of faculty growth during the 2021-2022 school year. In June of 2022, Nelle became the dean of curriculum and instruction. She is currently overseeing projects related to interdisciplinary curricular development and faculty growth, in addition to helping design and implement the MPS competency-based mastery learning and assessment framework.

Nelle earned her bachelor of arts degree in English from Connecticut College (1998) and a master's degree in arts and liberal sciences from Wesleyan University (2004). In 2019, Nelle earned a sixth-year degree in educational leadership from the University of Connecticut. An experienced educator, Nelle is particularly passionate about curriculum design, equitable grading practices, and mastery learning principles. She strives to create meaningful learning opportunities that help students grow, especially as writers and analytical thinkers.

In addition to her roles at Miss Porter's School, since 2022 Nelle has worked as an instructor in the Independent School Teaching Residency Program at the University of Pennsylvania. As part of the teaching and learning strand of the program, Nelle co-teaches graduate-level courses on curriculum design, assessment, feedback, and rubrics. In the past few years, Nelle has also presented and led workshops related to curriculum design, grading practices, and mastery-based learning at several conferences, including the International Coalition of Girls Schools (ICGS), National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), Mastery Transcript Consortium (MTC), Summit for Transformative Learning (STL in STL), The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS), the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools (CAIS), Challenge Success, and the Tang Institute at Andover Academy. Nelle published two blog posts documenting action research work for the Tang Institute, and she contributed to an article about supporting teachers through curricular shifts that was published by the Global Education Benchmark Group in 2023. In the spring of 2024, Nelle was interviewed about the value of formative assessment for an episode of the Learner-Centered Spaces Podcast.

Prior to her tenure at Miss Porter's School, Nelle worked for 19 years as an English teacher at Farmington High School. She also coached field hockey, basketball, and lacrosse while there, and her success as a field

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hockey coach earned her two “Coach of the Year” accolades from the Connecticut Field Hockey Coaches Association (2008, 2011) and a “Coach of the Year” title for the State of Connecticut (2009). In 2018, she was inducted into the Connecticut Field Hockey Hall of Fame for her contributions to the sport as both a high school and collegiate player and a high school coach.

Nelle lives on campus with her husband, Todd, and their three children — daughter Molly '22 and sons Spencer and Morgan, and their dog, Tucker. Outside the classroom she enjoys reading, walking, cooking, doing puzzles, listening to podcasts, and time with her family at the beach.

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