



## **High Meadows School Launches National Center for Progressive Learning**

“ The High Meadows Center for Progressive Learning is the connecting point between the global shifts in education, how communities are advocating for better learning models for their children, and the sought-after learning experience High Meadows offers its diverse student body.



## High Meadows Center for Progressive Learning Launches to Educate and Activate Parents, Educators and the Community on Progressive Education Practices

A progressive, experiential education is foundational to strengthening our communities, increasing active citizenship and promoting a healthy economy. The idea of learning for life is at the core of everything at High Meadows School, from its curriculum and enrichment programs, to each member of the faculty and staff. It speaks to the school's commitment to children long after they are students and stretches to the four corners of its 40-acre campus.

It is with this motivation that we are launching the [High Meadows Center for Progressive Learning](#). An initiative that naturally aligns as an extension of the school, its mission and guiding principles. Progressive educators have always understood that relationships are fundamental – the bond between teacher and child, the socialization among children, the connection between school and family, the link between knowledge and understanding.

The Center recognizes its opportunity to create relationships with other schools, educators and the larger Atlanta community around what

makes High Meadows unique in its educational practices.

“Every school has its own culture and approaches to learning, however, we are all united by a similar goal of growing children and preparing them for the world,” says Kate McElvaney, director of the High Meadows Center for Progressive Learning. “We have much

to learn from each other in order to move these efforts forward in meaningful ways and to develop a growth mindset around education today. The Center is the conduit through which we build community understanding

and awareness of the most important ideas and models in education today.”

For more than 40 years, High Meadows has provided a learning environment for children that is grounded in progressive education principles. These principles are rich in theory and in practice, and include:

- teaching the whole child, their intellectual, creative and emotional selves

**“The Center is the conduit through which we build community understanding and awareness of the most important ideas and models in education today.”**

- teaching with student interests in mind through discovery, inquiry, and experience
- developing a sense of social justice that allows students to become compassionate, responsible, and active global citizens
- learning that is real-world, significant and integrated with all subject areas
- learning that is a social endeavor of collaboration and conversation within a community

The Center aims to cultivate and promote a deeper understanding of these and other progressive practices for new audiences through first-hand experiences. It is focused on developing programming that offers authentic opportunities for parents and professionals to connect and learn.

These include a speaker series featuring national experts on related topics, parent and teacher collaborative workshops, multi-day professional institutes and educator immersions, book studies and access to other professional resources.

“High Meadows strives to be a beacon for progressive education while advocating for children and setting them on the path to a joyful life filled with curiosity, connection and purpose,” says Jay Underwood, head of school. “Our goal for the Center is similar in that we endeavor to present the inner workings and benefits of a progressive education to both parents and professionals while activating the community to act with knowledge and purpose. Our early

**“Our goal for the Center is that we endeavor to present the inner workings and benefits of a progressive education to both parents and professionals while activating the community to act with knowledge and purpose.”**

feedback from programs has confirmed we are on the right course.”

The Center’s first event of the school year hosted renowned speaker [Kevin Carroll](#) and provided an opportunity to emphasize the value of play in living and learning. More than 200 people attended from around the Atlanta area to hear Mr. Carroll speak about his own experience with progressive education and the value relationships have in propelling an individual to discover their passions and succeed. The Center will continue to bring dynamic speakers to spark conversations and inspire action.

This spring, the Center will introduce its first adult book study on the text, [Loving Learning:](#)

[How Progressive Education Can Save America’s Schools.](#)

Written by the former head of Park Day School, Tom Little, the book demonstrates the values found in a progressive approach by weaving historical,

philosophical and practical stories and examples of whole-child learning.

The High Meadows Center for Progressive Learning is the connecting point between the global shifts in education, how communities are advocating for better learning models for their children, and the sought-after learning experience High Meadows offers its diverse student body. We hope you will join us as we discuss, study and share ideas on these critical topics.

More information about the Center’s philosophies and upcoming events may be found by [visiting the website.](#)