



## **AISWA 2019 USA Study Tour**

***Sunday, 22 September through Saturday, 5 October***

The purpose of this study tour is to investigate and experience a range of innovative practices in schools and how these lead to improved student outcomes and engagement in their learning. The tour will incorporate a combination of masterclasses and school visits with time to reflect upon what is seen and how these new ideas could be implemented in your school.

**Boston and surrounds** - 22 September to 27 September  
**New York City (NYC) and surrounds** - 28 September through 5 October

The Study Tour will commence with a welcome reception on the Sunday evening. This will enable you to meet your fellow tour members and enable tour leaders to confirm the arrangements for the following morning and provide you with any important information.

Our first day (Monday) will be a Masterclass with Charles Fadel at the Center for Curriculum Redesign at Harvard University. Charles will explore ways schools can provide young people with opportunities to develop skills they need for uncertain futures.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will be school and site visits. Schools visited will be NuVu and Dexter College and a site visit to Olin Engineering.

**NuVu** is a place where young students grow their spirit of innovation. They use curiosity and creativity to explore new ideas, design solutions and make their concepts come to life.

NuVu is a full-time innovation school for middle and high school students. Fuelled by creativity, students have the capacity to address large-scale problems and create solutions that have an impact in the world. Derived from "New View," NuVu is a school where students explore real-world topics, both locally and globally, and create new views of the world. Students learn how to use the design process to solve complex challenges using creativity, critical thinking and collaboration. <https://cambridge.nuvustudio.com/>

**Dexter Southfield** provides students with opportunities to lead and to build confidence as they explore, create, build skills, and follow passions. Across all three divisions, they strive to live by the School's motto, "*Our Best Today, Better Tomorrow.*"

Dexter School opened in 1926 as a successor to the Noble and Greenough lower school, which was discontinued when Nobles moved to Dedham. The School purchased the Newton Street property and began construction of the current campus. Classrooms, athletic facilities, and art studios quickly followed. The school has exceptional facilities and offer students a large range of co-curricular and sporting opportunities. <http://www.dextersouthfield.org/>

**Olin Engineering** is an undergraduate engineering institution exploring innovative approaches to engineering education since its founding in 1997. Olin is more than just a laboratory for innovation in engineering education it is also dedicated to inspiring, enabling and equipping transformational educational experiences with and for other institutions. <http://www.olin.edu/>

That Friday we plan to travel by train to NYC where we will stay until Saturday 5 October. The second week will commence with two school visits, one to the Blue School in Manhattan and a second yet to be finalised. On the Wednesday, there will be a Masterclass with Yong Zhao where the concepts of innovation and enterprise education will be explored and investigate how schools and communities can support young people preparing for uncertain futures. Yong will challenge you to think beyond your current offerings so you can get the most out of the school visits.

On the Thursday, we will travel to East Hampton on Long Island to visit the Ross School and on the Friday, we will visit some innovative organisations that work with schools.

**Blue School**, (Pre-school through Year 6) at its founding, set out to reimagine education for children in our changing world. As the world develops at a greatly accelerated pace, Blue School's primary purpose is to combine the best educational practices with the most current innovative approaches to learning that are steeped in human development and neuroscience. A guiding question we always consider is, "What is the best way for us, as a school, to prepare our students for an unknown future?" In each period of history, changes in our environment have shaped what it takes to be sustainable and harmonious and Blue School strives to achieve this alignment. Building upon the newest research about learning, the need for collaboration and flexibility in the workplace, and the impact of social and self-intelligence's role in creating a vibrant learning environment to inspire lifelong learning, Blue School has developed an approach to education that balances academic mastery, self and social intelligence and creative thinking. We believe equilibrium among these three domains is needed in education to help children develop to their fullest potential.  
<https://www.blueschool.org>

**The Ross School's** mission is to change the way education meets the future; to foster interdisciplinary, integrated thinking and innovative leadership; to engage fully in the global community; and to facilitate lifelong learning. Interdisciplinary refers to integrated knowledge and modes of thinking from two or more disciplines or fields of study. Students integrate concepts, theories, and methods from multiple disciplines, deepening their understanding of a topic. Students acquire discipline-specific understandings and produce a synthesis across disciplines that allows them to explain concepts and solve problems of greater complexity.

At the core of Ross Learning System is a unique and comprehensive curriculum that fosters intercultural understanding, transdisciplinary problem solving, collaboration, and independent pursuit of personal interests and passions.

From the design of learning spaces to what students eat, how they exercise and physically understand their environment, and how they engage in contemplative practices to build self-awareness, the Ross Model embodies a dedication to mind, body, and spirit. At Ross School, our guiding principle is to educate the whole child for the whole world.  
<https://www.ross.org/>

In addition to school visits, there are a few other possible site visits being investigated and these would be to organisations that support schools pursuing innovative, creative and artistic inspiration to engage students and assist them develop these essential skills. Possibilities are –

Mouse	<a href="https://mouse.org/">https://mouse.org/</a>
Powrplant	<a href="https://www.powrplnt.org/">https://www.powrplnt.org/</a>
Dreamyard	<a href="https://www.dreamyard.com/">https://www.dreamyard.com/</a>

An end of tour group dinner will be held the evening of Friday, 4 October, and on Saturday, 5 October participants can return home or may choose to extend their stay in the US.