

THE NUEVA SCHOOL

Nueva’s Outreach Initiatives Aim to Share Expertise and Experience with All

Throughout the year, Nueva serves the academic community in myriad ways: by creating an educational experience rooted in authenticity, empathy, and choice; and by actively engaging with educators locally in the Bay Area, nationally, and internationally. On any given day, we welcome groups of educators from around the world to our classrooms for tours, discussions, world-renowned institutes, and conferences all devoted to empowering educators and parents beyond the Nueva community with the tools and educational philosophies at the heart of our mission. Every other October, the biennial Innovative Learning Conference (ILC) provides meaningful resources and inspiring direction for educators, researchers, parents, students, and many others. The ILC is just one of many initiatives that connect us to the greater community of educators.

Each summer, Nueva hosts the Design Thinking Institute, the Scientific Word Investigation Institute, the Equity and Inclusion Institute, and the Institute for Social and Emotional Learning. In the summer of 2019, we will host our first annual Gifted Learners’ Institute. Along with the ILC, each of these institutes serves as a forum for public and independent school educators to meet, share best practices, attend workshops, and bring new ideas and approaches back to their own communities.

Additionally, Nueva Summer and Nueva Weekend provide opportunities for students from our community and beyond to explore new passions and take academic deep dives led by Nueva faculty. These initiatives allow us to partner with schools and organizations including Northwestern University, Johns Hopkins University, Peninsula Bridge, and the Boys & Girls Club to bring diverse ideas and individuals onto campus to learn, explore, and share.

Nueva’s Mission Two

Nueva was founded as “a private school with a public purpose.” Mission Two refers to our public purpose: to share our pedagogies in gifted and innovative education with other educators and students — public and private, locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally — through programs, partnerships, institutes, and conferences. By sharing and reflecting upon our approach to learning, we also continue to learn and improve our own programs and practices.

Design Thinking Institute

As educators, we have a great responsibility to equip students with tools, strategies, and mindsets that will help them navigate an increasingly complex world, tackle open-ended and difficult challenges, and empower them to become changemakers. At Nueva, we do this by making Design Thinking a core pillar of our learning approach.

In the early 2000s, Nueva partnered with IDEO and the Stanford d.school to design and implement the first Design Thinking program in a pre-collegiate setting, and constructed the first Innovation Lab (I-Lab) on our K–8 campus in Hillsborough.

Since then, our program has grown to our Upper School as we continue to develop and refine techniques, methods, strategies, and facilities for bringing Design Thinking to primary and secondary education, and to train and support educators in facilitating these rich learning experiences.

The Design Thinking Institute is our annual event dedicated to empowering educators to incorporate Design Thinking into their practices by sharing our processes, lessons learned, and curricula. Participants, ranging from administrators to classroom teachers to informal educators, are immersed in Design Thinking throughout the weeklong summer institute. And in the true Nueva spirit of “learning by doing,” participants design their own curricula to take back to their respective schools and classrooms, under the mentorship of our team of coaches.



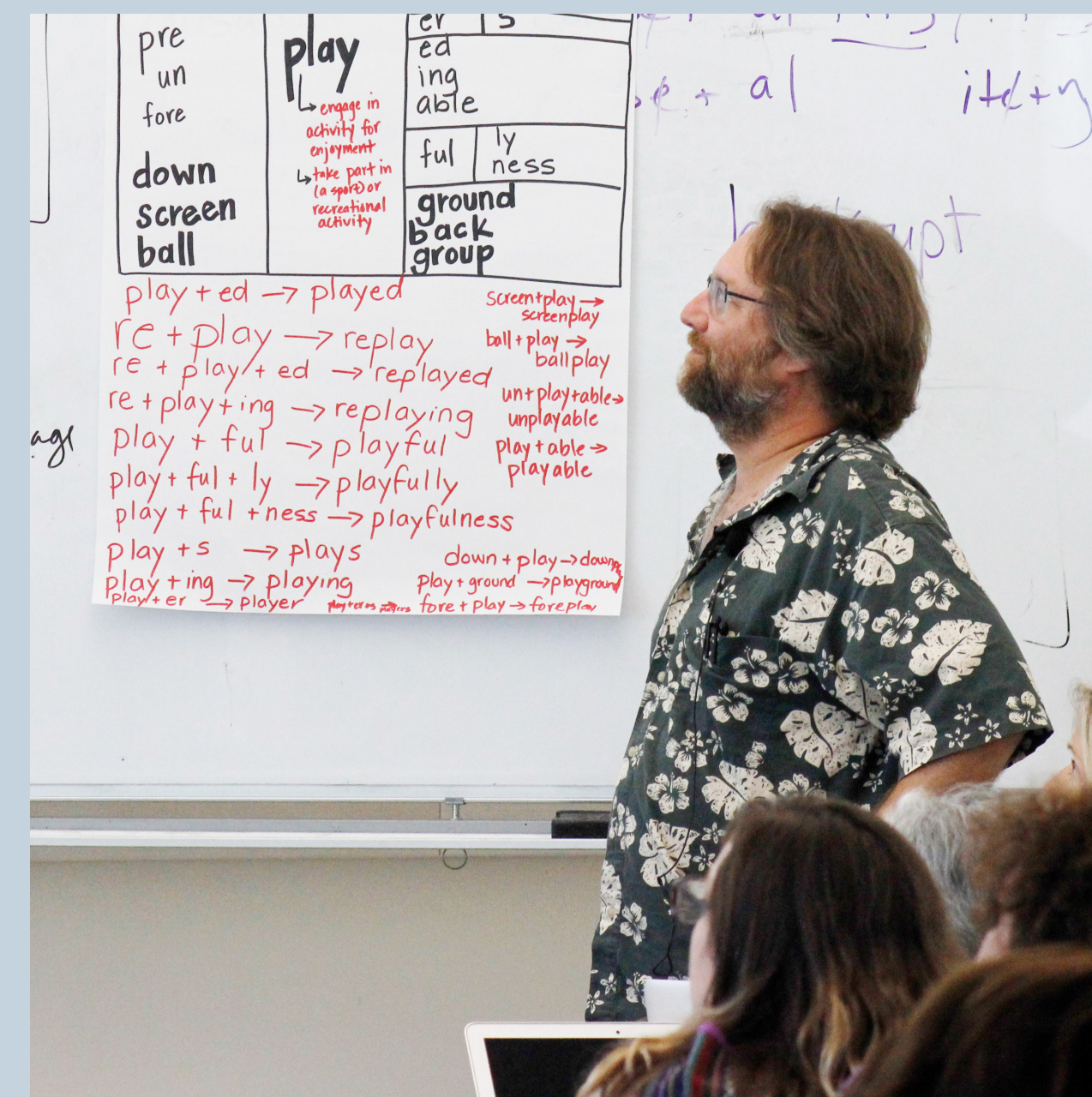
Structured Word Inquiry Institute

Structured Word Inquiry (SWI) has become Nueva’s approach to understanding the mechanics of language and linguistics. It illuminates the spelling and structure of all English words and is integrated into the curriculum across the disciplines. SWI takes a linguistic approach to investigating a word’s spelling, meaning, and etymology, one that allows students and teachers alike to question and understand why a word is spelled the way it is. Then, in true Nueva style, it gives students a method and process to answer their own questions.

Using linguistic tools such as word sums and lexical word matrices, students analyze words to identify their constituent elements: bases, prefixes, and suffixes. By discovering other words in the same etymological family, students create meaningful, and sometimes surprising, connections while building a deeper understanding of the English language.

“My hope is that teachers, parents, and researchers attending this annual institute are inspired and empowered to begin or deepen their own journey of making sense of the written word through Structured Word Inquiry. Participants in this workshop learn the steps of scientific inquiry with reference to meaningful spelling structures (bases and affixes) and historical cues (etymology) that allow them to address questions that their students raise,” said SWI lead instructor Peter Bowers.

“The SWI Summer Institute at Nueva has been crucial to the growth of structured word inquiry not only in the Bay Area, but throughout the world.”



Institute for Social and Emotional Learning

From the first day a student steps onto campus, they can feel it — the unique Nueva way in which they are welcomed, the wonderful connectedness of the faculty, staff, and families in the community, and the respect that teachers give to students, and their ideas.

Nueva was founded with a core value of self-science, which in ensuing years became widely known as Social-Emotional Learning (SEL). The SEL values of self-awareness, self-advocacy, empathy, care, communication, and collaboration are at the heart of Nueva’s distinctive educational environment.

With the increasing appreciation for the value of SEL in all learning environments, a group of former Nueva educators founded the SEL Institute at Nueva, which became the Institute for Social and Emotional Learning. The goal of the institute is to share with other schools and communities, through engaging professional development, our SEL best practices, and the tools and skills needed to introduce and improve SEL initiatives everywhere.



Equity and Inclusion Institute

Designed to promote personal and pedagogical growth, the Equity and Inclusion Institute encourages innovative approaches to implementing equity-minded education, and emboldens educators to disrupt the status quo in the service of creating transformational change.

Through the Equity and Inclusion Institute, educators gain a nuanced understanding of systemic inequity, learn how to implement a critically conscious pedagogy, and connect with other educators as a means to further understanding, provide inspiration, and promote healing.

Social justice is always grounded in transformation, and Nueva is guided by three fundamental principles:

Inclusion

We are committed to respecting, embracing, and supporting inclusion in all forms and identities, including but not limited to age, race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, class, culture, and socioeconomic status

Equity

We recognize that systemic inequities exist in our world, and are therefore committed to upholding equity as a core value in how we interact with others and how we challenge ourselves to overcome our own biases and assumptions.

Empowerment

We are committed to empowering youth to be dedicated, engaged, and thoughtful leaders who balance power with compassion, privilege with humility, and action with reflection.



Nueva Summer

Each summer, campers from across the world attend Nueva Summer to engage in activities and academic explorations representative of all that we offer at Nueva. Through camps focused on writing, political science, engineering, and more, campers have the opportunity to explore new areas of interests and make new friends. Nueva faculty lead nearly all of the offerings, seizing the opportunity to try out new ideas, teach outside their grade levels, and collaborate with colleagues outside their school-year cohorts.



“Nueva Summer was, once again, a terrific camp experience. Both of my daughters came home beaming every day with SO MUCH to talk about. Their days were full, they were intellectually engaged, and their curiosity was piqued. They both made friends, learned new things, and had so much fun. The instructors, counselors, and directors were wonderful.”

— Nueva Summer Parent



The Visible Learning Project aims to document project-based learning initiatives preK–12 at Nueva.

To explore more VLP documentation, please visit:

www.nuevaschool.org/student-experience/visible-learning-project.

Please direct all questions, feedback, or ideas for future documentation to VLP@nuevaschool.