



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

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PENNINGTON, NJ, October 2, 2026—Visiting Artist Shares Insight and Poetry with Pennington Students

Aimee Nezhukumatathil is the *New York Times* best-selling author of the poetry book, *Night Owl* (Ecco, 2026), and two illustrated collections of essays, “Bite By Bite,” and “World Of Wonders: In Praise Of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, & Other Astonishments,” which was chosen as Barnes and Noble’s Book of the Year and named a finalist for the Kirkus Prize.

Nezhukumatathil also wrote four previous award-winning poetry collections: *Oceanic*, *Lucky Fish*, *At The Drive-In Volcano*, and *Miracle Fruit*. With the poet Ross Gay, she co-authored the chapbook *Lace & Pyrite*, a collaboration of epistolary garden poems. Her writing appears twice in *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, the *Best American Poetry Series*, *The New York Times Magazine*, ESPN, *Poetry* magazine, *American Poetry Review*, and *The Paris Review*.

Nezhukumatathil’s honors include a poetry fellowship from the US Artist Fellowship Program, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pushcart Prize, a Mississippi Arts Council grant, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. For a decade, she served as the poetry editor for *Orion* and *Sierra* magazines. A professor of English and Creative Writing for over twenty-five years, she also serves as a firefly guide for Mississippi State Parks.

During her visit to Pennington, Nezhukumatathil met with several groups of students, including those currently enrolled in The Good Life, a Pennington honors course in English and Religion that examines the philosophical question, What does it mean to live a good life? Students enrolled in this class have studied Nezhukumatathil’s “World of Wonders” essay collection, and had several opportunities throughout the day to listen to readings, ask questions, and participate in interactive conversations with the esteemed poet.

The Pennington School is an independent coeducational school for students in grades 6 through 12, in both day and boarding programs. The curriculum is college preparatory, with an emphasis on individual excellence, fostering the development of the whole student through academics, athletics, community service, and the creative and performing arts.

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