

PGA Collaborative Groups (CG)
Final Approved Frameworks from Directors 2019-2020

- **Admissions** – Director of Admissions – Michele Sanchez
 - *Admissions Goal:* Encourage and retain families’ interest in enrolling their students in NWS
 - *PGA Admission Collaborative Group Goal:* Encourage re-enrollment by sharing their experience with interested families through the following and additional methods:
 - Volunteer at Open House to add the current parent voices to conversations with prospective families.
 - Make calls to accepted families.
 - Mentor new families by touching base in early months.
 - Participate in Preview Nights for current Middle School families interested in Upper School.

- **Arts** –Performing Arts Chair – Jo Nardolillo
 - *Arts Goal:* Arts education is vital to preparing for a fulfilling life and is intimately connected to academics. Requiring critical thinking, discipline, self-reflection—and often courage to step out of one’s comfort zone—art offers students fundamental experiences in challenge and accomplishment. It also opens their minds to seeing new pathways to problem-solving.
 - *PGA Performing Arts Collaborative Group* could benefit the program by:
 - Volunteering at performances: running ticket booth, helping to set up and take down seating for performances, managing students; film or live-stream performances for parents who cannot attend.
 - Community Liaison Work: Identifying and opening the door for opportunities for students to perform out in the community, (e.g., the “Lawyers Helping Hungry Children” event)
 - Join in the Arts Gala: Parents who play an orchestra instrument are invited to join in the fun. Commit to a pre-Spring Gala weekend rehearsal and join students on stage for all-community performance.
 - Share your culture by playing and bringing in your musical traditions to share with student ensembles. Plan to join students in performing at International Market Festival.

- **Athletics** – Athletic Director – Britt Attack
 - *Athletics Goal:* Administer sports programming for 9-12
 - *PGA Athletic Collaborative Group* could benefit the program with:

- Parent Info and discussion around Athletics and Health and Wellness, particularly the issues of Sports Specialization
 - Volunteer opportunities: keeping statistical data; working the scorer's table; serving as a game announcer; acting as a team photographer
 - Suggesting and or hosting sports/competition-related content: such as "Changing the Game"
 - Parent/Guardian/Family-to-Parent/Guardian/Family Connection: might include pick-up games, hiking, biking discussion groups
- **Health and Wellness** – Health and Wellness Chair – Joe Bisignano
 - *H&W Goal*: Health and Wellness discussion for grades 6-8
 - *PGA Health and Wellness Collaborative Group* could benefit the program with:
 - Parent info and discussion around Athletics and Health and Wellness, particularly the issues of Sports Specialization
 - An effort to encourage people to walk to school
 - Support and encouragement for biking to school
- **Development** – Director and Assistant Director of Development – Beth Mulvey and Julie Lombardo
 - *Development Goal*: Connect all constituencies to NWS to strengthen ties to community and the mission of the school.
 - *PGA Development IG Goal*: Assist with program and events that strengthen the school through engagement, education, and fundraising.
 - Participate in the Parent Guardian Association as a Class Lead, Collaborative Group Facilitator, or Communications Platform Manager.
 - Serve as an Annual Fund Ambassador.
 - Help organize our Annual Events: Holiday on the Hill and Pizazz.
- **DEI** – Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Anshu Wahi and a member of the Faculty DEI Committee Families Subcommittee (currently Jeremy Scheuer)
 - *DEI Goal*: As an integral part of The Northwest School's mission since its founding, social justice currently is integrated into our daily routines, curriculum, institutional practices, and student leadership opportunities. We are responsive to the continually evolving understandings of identity, diversity, equity, and inclusion in our world.
 - *PGA DEI Collaborative Group Goal*: Help facilitate parent understanding and support of pre-existing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives at Northwest through:
 - Orientations for New Families/Annual Trainings on:
 - What DEI means and looks like at NWS/NWS mission and social justice/Creating a common language (facilitated by NWS folks)
 - Race (facilitated by outside person)
 - Gender and sexuality (possibly Aidan Key and a POC from the same organization)
 - Parent Education/Workshops on: Race, Gender/Sexuality, Class, Privilege, Whiteness (these would go deeper than the orientations)

- Facilitate Parent/Guardian Communications re NWS Program and Area Resources/Events/Speakers
 - Parent/Guardian/Family-to-Parent/Guardian/Family Connection: Social Events such as: POSOC picnic, movie nights, book groups
- **Environmental Sustainability Programs** – Director of Environmental Education and Sustainability – Jenny Cooper
- *Environmental Sustainability Goal:* An integral part of The Northwest School's mission since its founding, we strive to meaningfully integrate environmental sustainability into our daily routines, curriculum, institutional practices, and student leadership opportunities. We aim to maximize learning opportunities while interacting with the natural and social systems on which we depend in a manner that enables current and future generations to thrive.
 - *Friends of NWS Environmental Sustainability Goal:* Build an inclusive community among parents through interest and engagement in environmental sustainability initiatives at NWS, which support the school's mission.
 - Volunteer in the NWS Farm/Garden during work parties or individually throughout the year.
 - Sign up for egg collection and chicken care on weekends and school breaks to keep our beautiful hens healthy and laying.
 - Provide strategic advice related to environmental sustainability initiatives at the school.
 - Generate ideas and engage in small research projects on specific environmental sustainability topics/ideas to assess their feasibility, impact, and educational value.
 - Discuss sustainability issues as part of work groups or in separate gatherings.
 - Stay up-to-date and participate in NWS environmental sustainability initiatives.
- **Boarding and International Student Program** – Upper School Associate Director – Amy Berner-Hays; and Dean of Residential Life – Justin Peters
- *Boarding Program and International Student PGA Group Purpose:* Support the care and programming for NWS Boarding and International Students. Facilitate the connection of boarding and international students to domestic families and serve as an advocate and support for them as they navigate school in the USA.
 - The International Parent Reps meet with the International Students of a grade three times per year, and ideally stick with the kids for all four years of high school. At these meetings they get to know the international students, learn about their experience, help them normalize what is going on, help them learn to advocate for themselves, and have the types of conversations parents likely have with their own kids. The current reps have found it to be a very rewarding experience. The meetings happen once per trimester, during the school day.

- Buddy Family Program: The Buddy Family program offers domestic NWS students and their families an opportunity to develop a global perspective and cultivate cultural exchange by connecting with dorm students outside of the school day. We hope that dorm students will gain a “home away from home,” learn more about Seattle, and experience what being part of a local family is like. Buddy Families experience the rewards of getting to know a student from a different part of the world and of helping them to become a part of the local community. Through this program, we hope relationships will grow that last long beyond graduation. The Boarding Program and International Program Group will support activities to build connection between Buddy Families and students.
 - Bistro Night/D43/Night Market: The Boarding Program and International Program Group will work with the school to sponsor social events that build global awareness and connection in the school community.
- **Global Programs** – Director of Global Programs – Dmitry Sherbakov
 - *Global Program Goal:* Connect all NWS students to international partner schools and global educational experiences.
 - *PGA Global Programs Collaborative Group Goal:* Celebrate NWS’s Global priority through regular events and activities related to global issues and cultures.
 - Expertise and Interests: Share your international expertise and interests with classes and groups.
 - Connect NWS families to local international organizations and affinity groups
 - Participate in book groups/discussions on global issues.
 - Serve as a language translator and or create a database of translators for families who are part of or are interested in NWS.
 - Create opportunities for informal connections between NWS domestic and international families in the Seattle area or abroad.
 - International Exchange Program Volunteers:
 - Host students or teachers from global partner schools for a trimester, two weeks, or a few days, in partnership with another family.
 - International Market Festival – Incorporate international themes throughout the school community by planning and launching regular celebratory events with multi-cultural, international themes through the year.
- **Parent Education** – Assistant Head of School – Meg Goldner Rabinowitz
 - *Parent Guardian Ed Goal:* Give Parents/Guardians access to speakers/topics relevant to all parents.
 - *PGA Education Collaborative Group Goal:* Prioritize feedback from Directors and PGA Collaborative Group Facilitators, and generate ideas concerning what

parent/guardian education is needed to organize (tri-annual) events for parents.

- Directors and PGA Facilitators will feed ideas for Parent Guardian Education Opportunities to the PGA Parent/Guardian Ed CG Committee from the conversations that arise from the directors' work with PGA Group Facilitators and their Collaborative Groups.
- **Tech** – Educational Technology Coordinator – Shie Benaderet
 - *Tech Goal:* Integrate technology and computer science into our curriculum.
 - *PGA Tech Collaborative Group Goal:* Help us connect with the greater parent community in a formal and regular way.
 - Framework for parent involvement:
 - Build a database of parent tech skills and desires through:
 - field trips, guest speakers, event/club assistance
 - Organize parent education events
 - around 1:1, family media agreements, and balancing screen/family time
 - Start a book/podcast club
 - Launch a fun annual tech event for our students
- **Family Support** – Counselors – Megan Reibel and Erin North
 - *Counseling Goal:* The School counselors at NWS offer short term, solution-focused support to students and their families. These services include short-term counseling support around all the challenges of adolescence and referral resources for families.
 - Family Support PGA IG Goal: Extend the reach of counselors with parent/guardian peer-to-peer interactions.
 - Family Support Crisis Response: Serve as a resource to families who are in crisis due to illness or other family circumstance by coordinating meals, rides, and/or other resources as needed.
 - US and MS Trimester Parenting Coffees: Serve as a sounding board to your peers and benefit yourself by attending the Counseling Offices "Parenting Coffees." Put faces to names and recognize that families of middle school and high school students share similar challenges through the year and in life.
 - Parenting Communications Collaboration: Help the Counseling Office by maintaining and developing links to parenting resources and events on NWSPGA.org website.
 - Forefront Trainers: Become a Forefront Trainer to help train other parents in how to discuss suicide and difficult mental health challenges with their MS and US students.