

EFS Leadership Academy

A year-long, residential, leadership academy for those wishing to be part of a learning community exploring education for sustainability, systems thinking, and school transformation.

We will gather four times over the course of the year, with a different thematic focus at each gathering. In between each session, we will gather virtually to dialogue about shared readings, reflect with a peer partner, or support a peer's work.



GROWTH

SUMMER - 3 days

In the summer, we take a cue from the natural world and look to what is alive and growing. We experience summer on the farm, by the lake, and in the field and forest. We spend time together as a new group reflecting on: *What brought me here? Where do I want to go? Who am I as a leader? What do I need to know in order to create change?* We share what is alive for us as educators and leaders in our work.

- Begin developing an EFS Professional Action Plan. In the plan you consider your individual goals, hopes, expectations.
- Create a systems map of your work context as a way to better understand how you might leverage change in your school or organization.
- Practice professional collaborative protocols to deepen your practice.



CHANGE

FALL - 2 days

In the fall, we consider how you can effect change and what evidence of it looks like in your educational context. Again, we are inspired by our surroundings and look to fall's phenological events. We awaken our senses to explore nature's changing landscape and inhabitant's activities. Together, we explore narratives, ethnography, and storytelling as powerful tools toward sustainability.

- Begin to reveal more of your personal practice, share your work with each other, seek feedback and wisdom from the group.
- Deepen your practice using reflection and collaborative protocols.
- Learn skills of interviewing and document-ation and explore how storytelling can be a tool for your systems change efforts.
- Develop a 90-day action plan for individual research and reflection.



ADAPTATION

WINTER - 3 days

In the winter we connect the concept of adaptation in the natural world to leadership practice. We explore adaptive leadership techniques to respond to changing external conditions. Getting out on the land, we look for patterns to use as metaphors for your work and systems map, and experience winter's gift of quiet, and how stories are revealed in a different way. We explore questions like: What have I been tracking? What do I need to do differently? What perspectives do I need? We dive into skills and understanding of diversity, power and privilege.

- Reflect on your action plans and get feedback from peers who will help you consider alternative perspectives or next steps
- Read articles on leadership practice and reflect with peers on applications for your own context.



RENEWAL

SPRING - 2 days

In the spring (the close of the year-long program), we explore the concept of renewal. For your personal and professional practice, we consider sustaining the practitioner in the hard work of systems change. The land inspires us as we look for signs of animal and plant growth, rebirth, and migration.

- Develop a plan and share your commitment to sustainability work.
- Deepen your ability to advocate for EFS
- Celebrate and rejuvenate!!