



Stephen Nowack

ASSISTANT HEAD FOR ACADEMIC
AFFAIRS

Contact Information

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Skills

Financial Stewardship
Strategic Vision & Planning
Board & Community Engagement
Faculty Leadership and
Development
Inclusive Culture & Belonging
Real-World Applied Learning
AI Integration and Policy

Links

[LinkedIn Profile](#)

Executive Summary

Independent school leader with more than two decades of experience in PreK-12 day and boarding schools, with deep experience supporting a global residential community. Brings extensive leadership across academics, student experience, faculty development, schedule design, and program oversight. Skilled in supervising senior leaders, managing multi-department budgets, guiding accreditation, and partnering with boards on strategic direction. Known for strengthening faculty culture, advancing real world learning, leading responsible AI integration, and creating systems that elevate student belonging and learning across a diverse, international community.

Education

Master of Science, Independent School Leadership, Mercer University

**Bachelor of Arts, Major: English, Minor: Interdisciplinary Studies,
Cornerstone University**

Leadership Experience

Assistant Head for Academic Affairs, Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School

2020 – PRESENT

- Oversee academic and programmatic operations for a global PreK-12 boarding and day school.
- Supervise seven senior leaders across academic divisions, arts, athletics, DEI, learning support, and modern learning
- Manage academic and co-curricular budgets; partner with CFO and Head on resource allocation and staffing models
- Lead faculty recruitment, hiring processes, evaluation, mentoring, and professional development systems
- Design and maintain the One School, One Vision PK-12 schedule and program alignment
- Co-author and implement responsible AI policy and faculty training initiatives
- Produce quarterly Board of Trustees reports and present on institutional priorities
- Chair SAIS accreditation, leading the next full review in 2025
- Partnered with the Board on strategic planning and preparing for the next cycle
- Coordinated academic and cultural alignment with the Assistant Head for Student Life to support the needs of a global boarding population
- Worked on the team behind a ten million dollar renovation of the school's oldest academic building

**Director of Curriculum and Applied Learning; Humanities Department
Chair, Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School**

2019 – 2020

- Led redesign of humanities curriculum and created the double-block humanities model
- Advanced interdisciplinary and applied learning initiatives across divisions
- Supported faculty coaching, collaborative planning, and instructional growth
- Launched the Applied Learning Symposium to showcase PK-12 student work
- Shaped interdisciplinary humanities curriculum responsive to a global student community, including the needs of boarding students

Head of Middle School, Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School

2016 – 2019

- Led a combined day and boarding division, overseeing student support, culture, and onboarding for domestic and international boarding students
- Supervised faculty hiring, professional growth, and evaluation
- Launched the Middle School House Program to strengthen belonging and leadership
- Partnered with Admissions on boarding and day recruitment, including international applicants and Discovery Days
- Collaborated with Student Life and Residential Life teams on student transitions, cross-cultural support, and weekend engagement
- Managed division budget, operations, and program development
Advanced applied learning structures and advisory redesign

Faculty, Middle and Upper School (Humanities), Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School

2010 – 2016

- Taught humanities in Middle and Upper School and launched the Teenage Symposium, creating authentic audiences for student work.
- Led transition of multiple departments to the current Humanities double block model, retaining faculty and building consensus through systemic change.
- Varsity Basketball Coach; Varsity Golf Coach

Upper School Faculty/Coach, Deerfield Windsor Academy, Albany, GA

2008 – 2010

- Taught English and a New Media course in the Upper School, incorporating literacy strategies and authentic performance assessments.
- Varsity Coach: Led athletic teams, building culture and fostering student athlete growth.

Assistant AD/Upper School Faculty, Sherwood Christian Academy, Albany, GA

2006 – 2008

- Taught high school English courses focused on reading, writing, and critical thinking while supporting student growth and engagement in the classroom.
- Assisted with the day to day operations of the athletic department, including event coordination, communication, and support for coaches and student athletes.

Speaking and Recognition

Presentations

GISA, NAIS, and ATLIS (topics: applied learning, AI integration, leadership in independent schools).

Awards

Three time Georgia STAR Teacher (2007, 2008, 2021).

Workshops and Panels

Leadership, curriculum innovation, faculty growth.

References

Available upon request.