

# SEVEN QUESTIONS WITH....

## DENNIS CAMPBELL, ED.D., HEADMASTER/CEO THE KINGSBURY CENTER



### **How did you first get involved with AIMS?**

I first became involved with AIMS when I was a middle school teacher at Sidwell Friends under the leadership of Earl Harrison and Bruce Stewart.

### **What's your first memory of being a Head of School?**

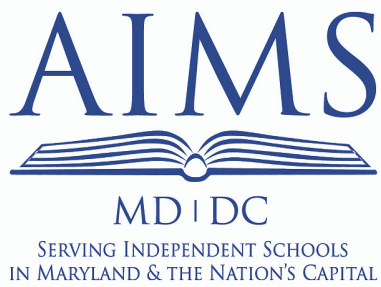
Although I have held varied educational leadership roles over the course of my career, I am a first-time head of school. When I arrived in July of this year I was struck by the eagerness, skill, and openness of the faculty and staff to reclaim their mission-driven focus while ensuring students develop as deeper learners.

### **What has surprised you most about working with schools and or students?**

Students tell you in a myriad of ways what they want and need. Rather than surprised I think I admire the passion, commitment, and ingenuity of teachers to connect students to learning in deep and meaningful ways. For example, I think of the teacher I knew that made geometry come alive for a student through the student's passion for parkour, or the teacher who invited an author to class to ignite his 9th graders interest in literacy.

### **What's the one thing you'd change about independent schools?**

Although independent schools have made strides addressing issues of diversity, I think there is much more work to be done focused on equity and student outcomes. This has implications for how students of color access our schools as the cost of tuition continues to rise. Ensuring more students of color have access to independent schools is good for our communities and the economy.



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**What do you wish other people knew about AIMS?**

AIMS is a collaborative and supportive network of schools.

**What might AIMS members be surprised to know about you?**

I will be running my first marathon next spring in Los Angeles. This is more of a personal challenge than a bucket list item.

**If you weren't serving as a Head of School, what would you be doing instead - or what would your life be like?**

If I were not a head of school, I envision myself as the CEO of an education research and development nonprofit. The mission of this organization would be to incubate disruptive, creative, and innovative ideas and practices in education.