

# LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear AMHS Community,

I am thrilled to officially announce the launch of an Artist in Residence program later this spring. This is an extension of our Experiential Learning programming, as shared in the Dream Auction 2021 Fund-A-Need video.

**WATCH THE FUND-A-NEED VIDEO**

Our inaugural artist, James Madison, is an AMHS parent, master woodcarver, and Tulalip Tribal member. Under Mr. Madison's leadership, we will carve a "Healing Pole" complete with wildcats in the design, as a community building project and source of healing from the impact of the pandemic. The carving project will begin in late March / early April on campus and continue throughout the summer; we will then complete and install the Totem Pole on campus in the spring of 2024.

There will be opportunities for students and staff to observe and directly get involved in carving, while learning about Coastal Salish art and Tulalip culture. Not only will we create something beautiful together as a wildcat community, but our goal is to build a cultural bridge that promotes deeper understanding and appreciation for Native American traditions and communities. Over the past two years, as part of our professional development efforts, we have coordinated visits for AMHS faculty / staff to tour the [Tulalip Hilibulb Cultural Center](#). These visits have informed the lens we bring to our work at AMHS. As a result, we wanted to go further in our learning by bringing this experiential learning to our campus through the arts.

What are some ways students can get involved?

- Students who have a TA or Academic Mentor period in their schedule may be able to participate in a cohort where they will have a series of more intensive sessions.
- Students can sign up for carving sessions during Flex Times in Community Period.
- This will be a welcoming space, where students can come by during lunch and/or if they have a break between classes to check out the project.
- We are working through plans for summer opportunities for interested students too!

Our goal is to structure this in a way that is inclusive and welcoming to all students and staff, with opportunities for interested to students to get more intensive carving experiences. If your student may be interested in being part of this more intensive work, please let me know and I'll work with them around scheduling [amitchell@am-hs.org](mailto:amitchell@am-hs.org).

We look forward to sharing more information about this project as it gets underway and to keep you updated on the progress.

Sincerely,

Alicia Mitchell  
AMHS Principal

