



Divesting from Museum School – A guide to carrying forward the Open Minds experience after Open Minds

We love being part of your year... but we know that it's not feasible for a class to come over and over every single year. We know there are barriers to coming here both within your school, and built in to our application process. We try to give new applicants, and applicants who bring new teachers a chance, just because we're over-subscribed, not because we don't want you to come back. We adore teachers who see such value here that they want to return, and we definitely welcome this. We also implement new and cutting edge strategies into our work

So here are our tips for those years when you don't come see us, and you decide to "go it alone"

- Firstly, you're aren't alone. We're happy to help support teachers who want to emulate an Open Minds experience without a week at a site. This can look different depending on your needs. Unfortunately we can't offer financial help, but we're happy to point you to resources, and walk with you if you come across challenges.
- Journals were still a huge part of the year. Using the Journey into Journaling resource, explore techniques and return to ones that were successful for your students in the past. Look closely at objects and art as jump off points into new units, ideas, and concepts.
- Spend time in new places. Use what is available in new ways, field trips

became field studies, and any time off school grounds can be something to explore with journals, (even trips to the pool! i.e. journal before and after the swim... picking up on emotional experiences, concepts of buoyancy, and uses of energy). Explore places in your school that are less used for study. (How exciting is it for students to go into places they're not normally allowed... even if it's just the gym equipment room!)

- Engage community. We're always willing to help you bring in experts, but maybe you have some that are within your sphere of connection, either physically, or through online communication. Students plan for these visits by examining what they know about this person or their expertise, and what they wonder, then generate questions.
- Finally, they come back! We love seeing teachers re-apply after a few years trying Open Minds concepts on their own, because we know that we'll learn from you as much as you'll learn in this place!