



GROUNDED TOGETHER

a faculty experience to strengthen professional community from the inside out



Every year, schools invest enormous amounts of time, energy, and resources into professional development, but one of the most powerful drivers of school success is often left underdeveloped: the strength of the professional relationships among the adults in the building.

Teachers work beside one another every day, but rarely have structured, intentional time to build the kind of bonds that can sustain them through this challenging work. When professional community is shallow and teachers stay isolated, school becomes a place where we merely survive. But when we feel seen and known, when we have each other's backs, we thrive.

Grounded Together is a carefully designed, in-person, one-day faculty experience that helps educators reconnect, surface collective expertise, and build the kind of professional community that strengthens everything else.





WHAT THE DAY LOOKS LIKE

Grounded Together is a thoughtfully paced experience designed specifically for educators. Each activity is intentionally sequenced to increase psychological safety while remaining professional, practical, and relevant. A typical day includes:

- A brief opening keynote to set the tone for the day
- Structured small-group conversations to deepen collegial connection
- A “Strength Marketplace” that surfaces hidden expertise within the staff
- Protocol-based discussions of real instructional or professional challenges
- Opportunities for faculty to identify collaboration partners and next steps
- A closing commitment process that translates insight into action

What you will not see: dance parties, forced sharing, or icebreakers that make you do embarrassing things. (Nothing against dance parties ... that’s just not the vibe here.)



WHO THIS PROGRAM IS FOR

Grounded Together is especially impactful for schools that:

- Have experienced turnover or staff changes
- Are launching new initiatives and need stronger collaboration
- Want to improve faculty morale and reduce isolation
- Are merging departments, grade levels, or teams
- Want to begin the year with intentional community-building
- Need structured time for adults to reconnect after difficult seasons

The experience is appropriate for faculties of all sizes and disciplines who work with any grade level, including college faculties.

OUTCOMES

By the end of the day, faculty members will:

- Know colleagues more deeply and professionally
- Identify specific peers they can turn to for expertise or support
- Experience structured, productive dialogue with colleagues
- Leave with at least one intentional follow-up collaboration commitment

At the school level, leaders can expect:

- Stronger professional cohesion
- Increased cross-team collaboration
- Clearer awareness of faculty strengths
- Momentum for future initiatives
- A more grounded, connected professional culture





ABOUT THE FACILITATOR

Jennifer Gonzalez started the website Cult of Pedagogy in 2013, motivated by a desire to build a community of people with a shared enthusiasm for teaching. Through her articles, podcast, courses, and professional development offerings, she has curated wisdom from hundreds of educators and helped thousands of teachers make their work more satisfying.

Pedagogy aside, however, she has always held a deep belief that the relationship between teachers can make all the difference in how a school feels and how well it works. As we head into the deeper waters of the 21st century, there has never been a stronger need for human connection. With those beliefs at the front of her mind, she developed Grounded Together, her first professional development dedicated exclusively to building relationships between teachers.

PACKAGES

Grounded Together is held on-site at the location of your choosing, and any meals or refreshments will need to be provided by you.

Half Day

Sometimes you don't have a whole day to devote to community building! This 3-hour session can be held in the morning or afternoon.

Full Day

Grounded Together will have the most impact with a full day. This package requires three hours in the morning, a break for lunch, and three hours in the afternoon.

Full Day Plus Night Before

To get things started the night before, add a meet-and-greet, a dinner, an hour of fun social games, or any combination of these to a full-day package.

See current pricing at
cultofpedagogy.com/groundedtogether/pricing

