



What is the CoLab?

The **CoLab** is a partnership between Trafalgar School for Girls and McGill Faculty of Education that brings teachers and researchers together to innovate teaching and learning practices alongside students right in the classroom, allowing research to inform practice, and vice versa, in real time.

Through an innovative and collaborative school-university partnership, the CoLab fosters dynamic learning environments and action-oriented research that advances educational practice for a rapidly changing world.

The partnership operates across three pillars:

- 1** **Connect** innovative practice and research
- 2** **Cultivate** collaborative practice and research hubs
- 3** **Create** a scalable and sustainable partnership model

Ways to Get Involved

Relationships are the heart and foundation of the CoLab partnership. The pillars are realized through a variety of expanding programs, including the initiatives below.

Research Projects

CoLab research projects are built on true partnership. Each project is co-designed and co-facilitated by one McGill member and one Trafalgar teacher, ensuring that every initiative brings together the strengths of evidence-informed practice and the lived expertise of real classrooms. This collaborative model allows us to study what matters most while keeping student learning and teacher experience at the centre.

Our goal is to bridge research and practice in real time, testing ideas, refining instructional approaches, and generating insights that immediately benefit both schools and the broader educational community. By working together, we create projects that are meaningful, practical, and deeply connected to the realities of teaching and learning.

To learn more about the research proposal process, please refer to the [CoLab Research Guidelines](#). If you're interested in leading or joining a project, we invite you to fill out the [Interest Form](#).

To help match Trafalgar and McGill team members, please refer to the lists below:

- Trafalgar faculty and their areas of interest at trafalgar.qc.ca/colab-directory
- McGill faculty and their areas of interest at mcgill.ca/education/people

Supported by



Trafalgar



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Faculty of Education | Faculté des sciences de l'éducation

Open Classroom

The **Open Classroom Series** connects McGill and Trafalgar faculty and students by opening the classroom. Trafalgar School for Girls (3495 Simpson) is a short walk from the McGill campus, making it easy for faculty and students to participate in school visits.

The purpose of this initiative is to build relationships, share knowledge and expertise, and learn from one another as members of our educational community through either of the following exchanges:

1

Inviting university faculty and students into real **secondary classrooms** to see how concepts like inquiry-based learning, differentiation, or formative assessment unfold in practice

2

Inviting secondary teachers and students into **university classes** to share firsthand experiences, illustrate how theory translates into daily decision-making, and enrich discussions with concrete examples

These exchanges help bridge the gap between research and practice, allowing future teachers to see what theory looks like in action, giving faculty current insight into school-level realities, and offering in-service teachers the chance to learn from emerging research and fresh perspectives.

Co-nnection Events

CoLab events are an open invitation to connect with others who care about teaching, learning, and research. At our inaugural launch event, educators, researchers, and students came together for thoughtful conversation, shared questions, and new ideas. These gatherings help us build relationships and strengthen a learning community where everyone has something valuable to contribute.

We will continue to offer similar opportunities, creating spaces that bring people together in a meaningful and welcoming way. If you are looking to meet others, exchange perspectives, or simply join in the conversation, Co-nnection Events are an easy and engaging place to start.

Field Placements

Field placements are available for pre-service teachers who are eager to learn within a lab school environment and bring a strong interest in girls' education and educational research. These placements are designed for students who are curious, reflective, and ready to engage thoughtfully with the complexities of classroom practice. Opportunities are selective to ensure a good fit and a meaningful experience for both the school community and participating students.

We also welcome graduate students who are completing a field placement or Special Project and are interested in working closely with our Learning Support team. These opportunities are well suited to motivated students who value collaboration, inquiry, and hands-on experience in a research-informed setting.

Contact Us

To learn more about the CoLab partnership and how to get involved, contact colab@trafalgar.qc.ca