

The
Logan
School
for creative learning



**Position Statement for
Head of School**

The Logan School for Creative Learning

**Denver, Colorado
July 1, 2023**



Head of School

POSITION STATEMENT | START DATE: JULY 1, 2023



OVERVIEW

Imagine leading a school where students develop their own individualized units of study, allowing personal passions and interests to drive the development of academic skills and deep critical thinking. Picture yourself leading a school where students regularly engage in the wide world around them through hands-on and experiential learning.

The Logan School for Creative Learning, a K-8 independent school serving 250 students in Denver, CO, seeks a new Head of School for July 1, 2023. The Logan School's mission is to cultivate the curiosities of gifted children, and its approach is as unique and individual as the children who make up the Logan community. Students, parents, and faculty alike consider elements of The Logan School to be magical, and it is well worth your time to learn more about this exceptional leadership opportunity.

The Logan School begins with the premise that giftedness is a different way of experiencing the world. Logan students collaborate with their

teachers to follow their questions about areas of interest through individual units of study that they select and help design. They are surrounded by peers and teachers who share their passion for learning and respect for each other.

There is a clear commitment at The Logan School to creating a loving and respectful environment for all members of the school community. The board, administration, faculty, and parents share a desire to promote a climate that celebrates diversity of identity and thought and that rejects all forms of discrimination.

In August 2022, Shae Schneider stepped into the role of Interim Head of School for a period of 11 months that will conclude at the end of June 2023. The next Head of School at The Logan School will continue the journey of a school where learning is both joyous and purposeful. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate that they possess the expertise, empathy, and energy to ensure that The Logan School remains a special place for many years to come.

Head of School

POSITION STATEMENT | START DATE: JULY 1, 2023



MISSION AND VALUES

The Logan School's recently revised mission statement is clear, concise, and embraced by all constituents in the school community:

To cultivate the curiosities of gifted children

This mission is supported by four key values at The Logan School:

- *We believe children are infinitely curious. Their learning experience should be similarly boundless.*
- *We believe that students drive the learning experience.*
- *We believe that the joy of learning is infectious.*
- *We believe in the power of community.*

A REMARKABLE HISTORY, CAMPUS, AND COMMUNITY

Founded in 1981 by Patti McKinnell as an educational alternative for gifted children, The Logan School for Creative Learning is a progressive day school serving approximately 250 students in grades K-8 that focuses on individual units and hands-on learning in a rich and nuanced program. Located in east Denver, the school attracts students throughout the Denver area. Currently, the school occupies four buildings, and includes a gym, theater, lunchroom, extended care space, classroom building, and a design space called Logan Works. The surrounding grounds include a newly redesigned playground, a playing field, various gardens and some areas of undeveloped open space.

While there has been great continuity in the educational philosophy of The Logan School over the past 40+ years, the administrative structure, school leadership, and physical space have continued to evolve. The transition from its original home at 1836



Head of School

POSITION STATEMENT | START DATE: JULY 1, 2023



Logan Street to its current home on thirteen acres of the decommissioned Lowry Air Force Base was a pivotal moment for the school, as were the subsequent campaigns to renovate and expand the intentional and well-maintained campus.

Patti McKinnell developed the school's philosophy with the help of many of the founding teachers at The Logan School, parents, and experts in the field of gifted education. Experiential learning is inherent in the school's individualized units, classroom activities, and community trips, and it is supported by a wealth of resources, both on campus and in the broader community.

While benefitting from its wonderful learning spaces, the real spirit of The Logan School is embodied by the strong relationships between faculty and students and in its caring and supportive community. There are consistent themes of connectedness and purpose expressed by Logan faculty, staff, administrators, parents, trustees, and students.

PROGRAM

At The Logan School, students develop their own individualized units of study, allowing personal passions and interests to drive the development of academic skills and deep critical thinking. Students engage in the wide world around them through hands-on and experiential learning which ensures that their learning experience mirrors the infinite nature of their curiosity.

The independence and self-direction of the Logan model creates a strong environment for children to learn skills of time management, organization, and personal responsibility. An exceptional faculty guides students in their learning journey and provides individualized instruction and support through a low student-to-teacher ratio of 6:1.

Students at The Logan School have myriad opportunities to collaborate with one another and to learn directly from community resources outside the walls of the school, demonstrating the school's strong commitment to primary source experiences.

Head of School

POSITION STATEMENT | START DATE: JULY 1, 2023



LIVING AND LEADING IN THE DENVER AREA

“Urban sophistication meets outdoor adventure in Denver.” Denver offers an unparalleled quality of outdoor recreation, and is a robust hub for arts and culture in the Mountain West. The Mile High City’s 300 days of sunshine, diverse neighborhoods, and natural beauty combine to offer a spectacular playground in which to live, lead, and learn.

STRENGTHS

The Logan School in 2022 is in the enviable position of being a school whose mission, values, and approach to learning are clearly understood and widely embraced by faculty, staff, parents, trustees, and students. Constituents consider their school to be a special place, and they are proud to be members of the Logan community.

Furthermore, the breadth and richness of The Logan School’s program and its unwavering commitment to student-centered learning is impressive. The school not only delivers on its mission “To cultivate the curiosities of gifted children,” but it is positioned to be a thought leader in Denver and beyond in serving gifted students through innovative, experiential education.

At the center of the school is an exceptionally strong and dedicated faculty. Lifelong learners themselves, even coming out of two years of isolation from one another due to the pandemic, faculty at The Logan School have maintained a shared culture characterized by belief in their students and collaboration with one another.

Head of School

POSITION STATEMENT | START DATE: JULY 1, 2023



Of equal importance to all members of the Logan community, the school “walks the walk” of sustaining a culture of respect for self and others. As a natural extension of this core value, The Logan School is a place that is continuously thoughtful about diversity, equity, and inclusion, and it is a genuinely welcoming place for a broad range of children, employees, and families.

The Logan School also has “strong bones.” Enrollment in 2022-23 is close to desired capacity. The school’s finances are stable. There is minimal debt, and fundraising has been effective in addressing annual facility improvements. The next Head of School will have an opportunity to build on a secure foundation in moving The Logan School forward over the course of the years ahead.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

It is important to recognize that The Logan School is growing up and needs to manage the tensions inherent in being a larger, more established, and sustainable school. While there is every reason for the school to be confident in the continuity of its mission, values, and child-centered approach to learning, the next Head of School will need to work with the board, faculty, and community to create and implement a vision that includes:

- Addressing mandates relating to safety, liability, and accreditation, while minimizing disruption to key aspects of the school’s culture and program
- Codifying some common standards and practices, while not losing sight of the belief that “it depends” is often the best answer to a complex question

While the school does not have a current strategic plan, and is waiting for the arrival of a new Head of School to develop one, the following priorities are likely to be among those demanding early attention by the next Head, in partnership with the board, faculty, and community:

- Increasing faculty compensation: The talented employees at The Logan School are the lifeblood of the School. The next Head of School will need to work with the Board to develop a multiyear plan to ensure that The Logan School can offer salaries needed to attract and retain exceptional faculty and staff who resonate with its mission and values.
- Strengthening communication: Transparent communication from the Head of School will be a key to building and sustaining trust and collaboration among faculty, staff, administrators, trustees, and parents.
- Continuing to move The Logan School forward in its commitment to inclusivity, diversity, equity, and belonging.
- Working to increase fundraising in support of people, facilities, and programs: The culture of philanthropy has grown with the School, but additional opportunities exist. The next Head of School will have a significant role to play in continuing to increase philanthropic revenue streams, particularly amid inflationary pressures for faculty, staff, and families.

Head of School

POSITION STATEMENT | START DATE: JULY 1, 2023



THE POSITION

The Head of School at The Logan School oversees the ongoing operations of the School, hires and supports its faculty and staff, and manages its annual budget. Base salary for the next Head of School will be commensurate with the compensation offered by similar Denver area K-8 independent schools and will be in the range of \$210,000 to \$235,000.

First and foremost, successful candidates will need to embrace The Logan School's mission, values, and child-centered approach to learning. While candidates do not need to have formal experience working in gifted education, they will need to demonstrate understanding of and respect for the population of students that The Logan School serves.

In addition, candidates should demonstrate a record of skill in leadership, including many of the following professional and personal attributes:

- Record of forming caring, respectful relationships with both children and adults
- Ability to create and implement shared vision
- High emotional intelligence – self-awareness, empathy; compassion; authenticity
- Excellent communicator – demonstrated ability to listen and to reflect back

- Authentic commitment and demonstrated skill in leading DEI initiatives
- Transparent and inclusive leadership style – seeks and values input; willing to make a hard decision
- Strategic thinker; quick processor
- Lifelong learner – curious and creative
- Seeks and values feedback
- Demonstrates a balance of humility and confidence – knows when to be flexible and when to be firm
- Proven ability to hire, develop, and support outstanding teachers
- A joyous, playful spirit and a sense of humor

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Logan School has retained Resource Group 175 (RG175) to support the search for its next Head of School. To apply, interested candidates should prepare a cover letter, a current resume, and a personal statement. Candidates are requested to submit these materials online at:

<https://rg175.com/candidate/signup>

For an initial inquiry or to nominate a potential candidate for this exciting leadership position, please contact RG175 consultant Jerrold Katz at: jkatz@rg175.com.

Application Deadline:
NOVEMBER 10, 2022

Start Date: **JULY 1, 2023**

Some characteristics that Logan students would like to see in their next Head of School:

- Nice, caring, trusting
- Makes good choices
- Can solve mysteries
- Likes to meet people
- Likes to play with children
- Stops by to say hello
- Respects others – children and adults
- Has courage for challenging situations