

POSITION STATEMENT

Chandler School

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA



DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL SEARCH
START DATE: JULY 1, 2026





OVERVIEW

Perched on a ridge above the Rose Bowl with sweeping views of the Arroyo Seco, Chandler School has been a Pasadena landmark for seventy-five years — a place where intellectual curiosity, character, and community come together to shape confident, compassionate young people.

Founded in 1950, Chandler School is a non-denominational, coeducational K–8, day school enrolling 450 students on a beautiful four-acre campus. The school is located just eleven miles northeast of downtown Los Angeles and is widely recognized for providing students with an academically challenging, well-balanced, and nurturing environment that inspires intellectual curiosity, resilience, and character development.

Chandler School is seeking the school's next Director of Middle School to join the community on July 1, 2026.

With a dedicated faculty of 60 educators, Chandler maintains a close-knit community that emphasizes personalized attention. Students benefit from small class sizes, innovative teaching, and a curriculum designed to challenge and inspire. The school's facilities and programs support academic rigor, creativity, athletics, and the arts—all essential components of a Chandler education.

The Director of Middle School heads the upper division (Grades 6–8) and reports directly to the Head of School. The Director of Middle School is a member of Chandler's administrative team with responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the middle school. The Director will join a vibrant and collaborative leadership team, report directly to the Head of School, and lead the Middle School (Grades 6–8) in a community deeply committed to intellectual excellence, balance, and character.

CHANDLER SCHOOL

Mission

Chandler's mission is to provide each student with the highest quality and most academically challenging education in a nurturing, balanced and diverse environment.

Chandler strives to have students gain a love of learning, a means of thinking independently and an ability to work collaboratively. A Chandler education seeks to develop good character, self-reliance and a commitment to community in students as a foundation for academic and personal success.



Core Values

- Trustworthiness
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Fairness
- Caring
- Citizenship

Goals

To uphold the Chandler tradition of academic excellence and intellectual discipline in a program that develops the mind, body and spirit.

To promote respect, trustworthiness, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship, which are the core values of our school community.

To foster an educational environment that values and communicates respect for racial, religious, cultural and economic differences.

To serve the greater community, recognizing that as much is given to us, much is expected from us.

Diversity Statement

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are core components of Chandler's mission to promote academic challenge within a nurturing environment. Our commitment to DEI prepares Chandler students to be successful problem solvers, critical thinkers, and transformative leaders in our diverse and interconnected world.

Chandler School strives to:

Cultivate learning experiences that are robust, challenging and affirming

Support each of our community members in feeling seen, heard, honored and valued

Empower our students, employees and families to identify, interrupt and eliminate bias

Evaluate and develop new and existing policies, practices and programs that promote equity and belongingness

DATA POINTS

Year Founded:	1950
Grades Served:	K-8
Total Enrollment:	450
Lower School Enrollment:	275
Middle School Enrollment:	175
Boys %:	52%
Girls %:	48%
Diversity %:	74%
Students Receiving Aid %:	20%
Total Aid Given:	\$2 million
Total Faculty:	60
Female Faculty %:	70%
Male Faculty %:	30%
Student/Faculty Ratio:	1:12
Average Lower School Class Size:	K-2: 15; 3-5: 22
Average Middle School Class Size:	6-8: 15
Average Faculty Tenure at School:	10
Highest Tuition:	\$31k
Annual Budget:	\$17 million
Endowment:	\$34 million
Most Recent Accreditation:	2018
Accreditations, Memberships, Affiliations:	CAIS NAIS



THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AT CHANDLER

The Middle School at Chandler, serving Grades 6–8, is a place where intellectual challenge meets personal growth. Designed to prepare students for success in secondary school and beyond, the program builds upon the strong foundation of the Lower School while promoting independence, leadership, and deeper engagement with ideas.

Chandler’s Middle School faculty are expert educators who understand early adolescence as a time of profound academic and emotional development. Teachers design rich, inquiry-based lessons that spark curiosity and encourage critical and creative thinking across disciplines. Students are supported by an advisory system that fosters connection, guidance, and a sense of belonging within the school community.

The curriculum challenges students to take ownership of their learning, emphasizing analytical reasoning, clear communication, and collaboration. Programs in world languages, visual and performing arts, physical education, and technology complement rigorous core academics, ensuring a well-rounded education. Leadership opportunities, community service, and co-curricular activities help students practice responsibility, empathy, and teamwork.

Through their Middle School experience, Chandler students emerge as confident, capable, and kind learners—ready to thrive in high school and contribute meaningfully to the world around them.

Read more about the middle school here:
<https://www.chandlerschool.org/the-chandler-experience/middle-school-6-8>

Learn More about Chandler

The Chandler Experience

<https://www.chandlerschool.org/academics>

Arts

<https://www.chandlerschool.org/arts>

Physical Education

<https://www.chandlerschool.org/athletics/physical-education>

THE OPPORTUNITY

Key Responsibilities for the Director of Middle School

The Director of Middle School leads all aspects of the grades 6–8 program and community life at Chandler School. This position ensures that the Middle School experience reflects Chandler’s mission to educate students in a nurturing, balanced, and diverse environment. The Director oversees faculty supervision, curriculum development, student support, and parent partnership while fostering a culture of academic excellence, character, and belonging. As a key member of the Administrative Team, the Director collaborates with the Head of School and Lower School Director to advance Chandler’s strategic goals and uphold the school’s standards of teaching, learning, and community engagement.

PRIORITIES, OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES

As Chandler's next Director of Middle School assumes leadership of a thriving division, several key opportunities and priorities will define the work ahead. The Director will join a dedicated and experienced faculty, a collaborative administrative team, and a community that values balance, belonging, and academic excellence.

Promote a positive and inclusive culture within the Middle School where all faculty and students feel seen, valued, and known. The next Director will inherit a talented and veteran team of educators—one that takes pride in its work and in the relationships that define the Chandler experience. A key opportunity will be to honor this institutional knowledge while welcoming new perspectives, fostering collegial trust, and modeling the school's core values in leading a multi-generational faculty.

Evaluate and enhance the structure and purpose of the Middle School's electives and co-curricular offerings to ensure that these experiences remain vibrant, relevant, and aligned with student voice and choice. The Director will ensure that these programs continue to complement Chandler's high-performing academic curriculum while contributing to students' creativity, well-being, and sense of belonging.

Review the roles and responsibilities within the divisional leadership structure—such as Department Chairs and Deans—to promote clarity, efficiency, and shared ownership. The Director will seek to align systems and processes in ways that empower faculty, support collaboration, and sustain the division's strong performance while recognizing the capacity of individual team members.

Work closely with colleagues to align policies, expectations, and procedures across the division and school to ensure equitable and transparent practices. The Director will bring a systems-thinking mindset to this work, balancing responsiveness with consistency and fairness.

In a community that deeply values accessibility and connection, the Director will maintain a visible and engaged presence across all areas of school life—building trust with students, faculty, and parents. The role calls for a leader who can navigate the fast pace and many demands of a dynamic school environment with calm, clarity, and empathy.



PERSONALITY AND PROFILE

Chandler School seeks a visible, student-centered, and relational leader who embodies the school's mission and values while inspiring confidence across the community. The next Director of Middle School will be a thoughtful educator who balances academic rigor with care, leads with empathy and integrity, and cultivates trust through clear communication and consistent presence.

Essential Attributes and Leadership Qualities

- **Emotional Intelligence and Empathy:** Connects authentically with students, faculty, and families, modeling care, fairness, and understanding in all interactions.
- **Strong Organizational and Communication Skills:** Brings clarity, structure, and follow-through to complex operations; communicates with transparency, consistency, and timeliness.
- **Visibility and Presence:** Maintains an approachable and optimistic presence throughout daily school life—in classrooms, hallways, and at events—serving as a steady and trusted figure in the community.
- **Integrity and Fairness:** Demonstrates sound judgment and moral courage; makes decisions transparently and builds confidence through honesty and follow-through.
- **Collaborative yet Decisive Leadership:** Listens actively and invites diverse perspectives while remaining confident and timely in decision-making.
- **Visionary and Growth-Oriented Mindset:** Brings intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm for innovation in teaching, learning, and community life.



Professional Competencies and Dispositions

- Experienced educational leader with a record of success guiding middle school students and teachers.
- Student-centered educator who balances high expectations with belonging, wellness, and joy in learning.
- Trust-builder who engages faculty, families, and students with warmth, openness, and consistency.
- Strategic thinker who manages complex systems while encouraging collaboration and continuous improvement.
- A visible, empathetic presence whose leadership strengthens the sense of community that defines Chandler School.



SALARY RANGE

The public salary range for this position is \$165,000 to \$200,000.

HOW TO APPLY

Candidates interested in applying to be the Director of Middle School at Chandler School may apply online at: <https://rg175.com/candidate/signup>

The application includes:

- Letter of Interest that addresses: Why this opportunity at Chandler and why now?
- Resume
- Personal Statement/Education Philosophy

Applications will be reviewed as they are received this winter. Initial conversations with the consultant will be ongoing with a plan for the school team to begin interviews in January. We anticipate a hire being made early in the new year with the next Director of Middle School beginning July 2026.

You are encouraged to submit materials promptly, if interested.

If you have any questions about the search, please contact the consultant, Adam Peichert, from Resource Group 175 who is supporting the search: adam.peichert@rg175.com

Thank you for your interest in Chandler School. We look forward to hearing more about your interest in this exciting opportunity.