

POSITION STATEMENT

The Meadows School

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



ASSOCIATE HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH

START DATE: JULY 1, 2026





THE PLACE

Walking on the beautiful, well-maintained esplanade – they call it “the mall” – on a weekday morning, the sounds of band practice float through the Arizona Ash trees that line the walkways. A member of the grounds crew is trimming rose bushes that help define the entire Meadows campus – one of thoughtful order and careful tending.

The campus measures a little more than 40 acres, which means plenty of room for vast play fields, outdoor play areas for younger students where they won’t get run over by big kids, buildings that are right-size and serviceable for now, but a campus that has room to grow, as it probably will in the future. Bounded by an arroyo on one side, a golf course and recreation area on another, a retirement home on the third and a major road on the fourth, The Meadows School is essentially its own island, blessedly free of the cranky neighbor issues that beset so many independent schools.

There is an aura of calm about the campus that belies the energy being expended in the classrooms by the 900 students. As a school that takes seriously its reputation as the best school not only in the State but in that part of the country, The Meadows School has an excellence-seeking program in its classrooms, stages and studios, in college counseling and athletics. This is, as one faculty member puts it, “a true liberal arts school,” dedicated to providing its students with a holistic educational experience that puts commendable emphasis on citizenship and community service. A parent remarks that, “We’re here for the best-in-class campus, the best-in-class facilities, and the best-in-class faculty.” Not a bad way for a school to be known in any community!

This is not the Las Vegas made famous by The Strip. This is a suburban idyll of beautiful homes and well-tended yards and gardens. It is far removed from the hubbub of downtown Vegas. Summerlin is a suburb like many others in America, only with better weather! Indeed, the Las Vegas of The Meadows community thrives in “a climate to die for,” as one teacher puts it, a place within easy reach of ten National Parks, a comfortable drive from southern California’s beaches or skiing in the Sierras, a place with a small-town feel and a reasonable cost of living, professional sports, music festivals and a world-class performance venue, an airport that can whisk a traveler almost anywhere in the world, and a can-do attitude that permeates the educational scene. Never in the forefront of leading state education systems, Nevada’s sights have been raised by the influx of newcomers and The Meadows has reaped the benefits of their high expectations and commitment to a first-rate education for their children.

The Mission

<https://www.themeadowsschool.org/about-us/mission-core-values>

THE PEOPLE

Given the recent, explosive growth of metropolitan Las Vegas, people with independent school backgrounds – nearly unheard of until the past few years – are now residents and are seeking a top-flight independent school; The Meadows fills the bill. Many of the Meadows faculty have come with experience in other independent schools, while still others are home-grown Las Vegas.

Not surprisingly, parents at The Meadows School are a diverse group, a mixture of conservative and liberal points of view bonded by their commitment to good schooling for their children. They tend to be involved not only with their children’s school but more broadly in the community. Non-profit organizations thrive in this high-desert climate and there are many opportunities for civic involvement beyond the Meadows campus.

The sense of community at The Meadows School is palpable. One Board member recently remarked that, “If I had an emergency, I could call 30 parents to do pick-up for me.” It’s that kind of place. Everyone seems to know everyone else. There is a comfortable camaraderie to the car-pool line at drop-off and pick-up as the Head, administrators, and faculty greet and mingle with students and parents.

Among the school’s many traditions (that include an all-school pancake breakfast in the first month of school, Kindergarten/Senior football night, and Homecoming) is the Second Grade Bake Sale—which is a lot more than a bake sale—that brings together parents and children and is a treasured memory of the older students who all come out to support the second graders as they display and sell their wares. It’s a small example, one of many, but one that typifies both the togetherness of the place and the ties that bind across the grades and across the years.



THE PROGRAM

Beginning School, Lower School, and Middle School are a progression of steps toward individual agency. The lower the grade level, the more traditional the curriculum and pedagogy. The aim, always, is to prepare students for the next level and by the time they reach the Upper School, Meadows' home-grown students are very well prepared indeed. This link leads to a look at the Lower School's program [curriculum](#).

The school's commitment to socio-economic diversity begins in kindergarten where the Windsong Trust provides full tuition scholarships for five students annually. One parent recently wrote that "the academic [scene] at The Meadows is like no other in Las Vegas. Since its inception, the school has maintained a strong academic program but has also realized the importance of a well-rounded child and must continue going in that direction. Arts, sports, new academic teachers, and counselors help make a well-rounded child." The Middle School builds on the traditional program of the Lower School and provides a solid foundation for the high school program. For a comprehensive look at the Middle School curriculum, click here: [curriculum](#) and then to have a [tour](#) of the division where kids can explore and play as they learn and prepare for the Upper School.

In the Upper School, the program is one that acknowledges AP's but isn't built around them. Advanced topics and elective opportunities exist in each department, ranging from science fiction to linear algebra or world literature in its original language, or cultural anthropology or engineering with a strong dose of robotics. And the offerings aren't static. One department chair says, as others nod in agreement, "We're encouraged to grow." There is an emphasis on professional growth and development that is heartening and in a school with no evident



financial concerns, there seems to be money for projects and equipment that would make The Meadows the envy of many an independent school. For a full view of the Upper School [curriculum](#)—and then take a [tour](#) to see The Meadows defines excellence in Upper School.

While the passage from didactic learning to discovery learning is evident in some of the bumps in transition between Lower and Middle and again from Middle to Upper, the main focus of Upper School pedagogy is "skill-based understanding," as the faculty really encourage students to "do" a subject and not merely be receptors of information. The result is an inquisitive student body, one eager to learn and oriented to succeed. <https://www.themeadowsschool.org/academics/upper-school/curriculum>

With such an approach, it is no surprise that Meadows' students do well on Advanced Placement tests and other measures of academic prowess. In the current Senior Class, nine students are National Merit Semifinalists, while an additional four received Letters of Commendation, while one-third of the class each year attend the country's Most or Highly Competitive colleges.

While many, if not most, Meadows parents have sent their children to the school because of its academic program, increasingly the Arts and Athletics are attracting families.

<https://www.themeadowsschool.org/the-arts>

A faculty member concurs, citing “our dedication to providing the best holistic experience where students can get top-rate academics while starring in a play and starting in a sport. We have worked hard to balance these three areas and while it isn't perfect, we should not go back to just being academically focused.”

The varsity gym features numerous State Championship banners in sports as varied as football and tennis and, in a metropolitan area so geared to entertainment as Las Vegas, it is not surprising that the performing arts at The Meadows are particularly strong. Because the school is committed to a policy of students being able to pursue as many activities as possible, play practice in the 300-seat theater may be at 7:00 A.M., while competitive sports teams take to the expansive fields and gyms after the class day has finished. Bands, orchestras, and art studios flourish throughout the school day.



MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

The current Head of School, Dr. Jay Berckley, has rebuilt the Senior Leadership Team in his three years on the job, with new hands on the tiller in Finance, Operations, Advancement, and Human Resources. Together with other administrators and the division directors, the result is a highly cohesive unit whose members enjoy working with each other and thrive under Berckley’s “all in” approach to school leadership. They’re at games and plays, out on the campus as much as their work allows, helping out on the carpool line—real members of the community—hard-working and committed to the school’s success, yes, but also fun-loving and easy to work with. It’s a great team.

Financial management at The Meadows has been commendably conservative, with the result that tuitions are low by big-city standards while capitalization is high. The Meadows School is debt-free, has an Operating Budget of \$33 Million, with roughly \$50 Million in accumulated reserves. Owing to the close cooperation of the CFO, Head, and the Board’s Finance Committee, The Meadows operates with a high-functioning and very lean administrative team. As a direct result of the school’s new leadership, parent participation in the Annual Fund has grown from 38% three years ago to 75% in 2025 and faculty/staff participation is now 100%, while the average gift has more than doubled.

The Meadows School’s governance model is unique. The current Board of Trustees is made up of 23 “units” – 18 married couples, each with a single vote—along with five single units. This unusual set-up has been around longer than anyone remembers, but it appears to function well enough to meet the school’s needs. There are the usual committees but term limits diminish the likelihood of there being much institutional memory on the Board other than that provided by alumni. With some highly capable lawyers on the Board, the Bylaws are due to get a serious look in the near future and the term limits provision is likely to be revisited.

THE WORK AHEAD

The opportunity to join such a successful team and work with such a dynamic Head is rare. The Meadows is a school on the move: it's growing – soon to increase enrollment by one-third – and the Head will be heavily engaged in the planning and fundraising necessary for building projects and a larger student body. As the Head leads the school into the future, the Associate Head must manage the daily operations of the school, advance improvements in curriculum and pedagogy, and be totally committed to the aforementioned “all in” attitude exemplified by Jay Berckley.

THE NEXT ASSOCIATE HEAD OF SCHOOL AT THE MEADOWS SCHOOL WILL MOST LIKELY:

- Have a solid understanding of K-12 curriculum, pedagogy, and best practices.
- Value the work of the classroom teacher
- Have leadership experience in independent schools
- Know current trends and best practices in college counseling
- Be a fan and want to attend games, plays, concerts—whatever is going on
- Enjoy being visible, out and about, not office-bound
- Help strengthen classroom practices and leading professional development
- Be comfortable and enjoy social settings on and off-campus; be part of the community
- Laugh easily and possess an evident sense of humor
- Be excited about living and working in such a dynamic part of the country
- Be “all in” —be a willing chaperone, do carpool line, pick up litter, arrive early and stay late



The Associate Head will play a key role in The Meadows’ growth and development as manager, collaborator, and partner, while demonstrating the heart for the work.

Enrollment in a one-of-a-kind school presents challenges, even more so when demand is growing. The Associate Head may well play a key role in this office as demand for the school burgeons.

TO APPLY

The deadline for applications is **February 8, 2026**. Candidates apply through the RG175 website: <https://rg175.com/login> and must include a cover letter, a resume, and a writing sample. Any questions, reach out to the RG175 consultants:

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