

POSITION STATEMENT

The Meadows School

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



DIRECTOR OF THE LOWER SCHOOL SEARCH

START DATE: JULY 1, 2026





THE OPPORTUNITY

On any given morning at The Meadows School, the campus feels both grounded and alive with possibility. Sunlight filters across a stunning central campus mall—softly lit by string lights in the early hours—where students move with ease between classrooms, studios, and outdoor spaces. Rose bushes, planted in honor of the school’s founder, line the walkways, a quiet reminder that Meadows is a place where history is honored and carefully tended. Set on an expansive campus in Summerlin, the school offers a rare sense of openness and calm—space to explore, room to grow, and an environment intentionally designed for learning at every age.

Within this landscape, the Lower School serves as both the historic heart of the campus and the foundation of the Meadows experience. It is here, in the school’s original building, that curiosity is sparked, confidence takes root, and a lifelong love of learning begins.

At this time, the Meadows School (<https://www.themeadowsschool.org/>) seeks an inspiring and skilled Director of the Lower School to lead

this vital division at a moment of strength and possibility. As Meadows looks ahead, the opportunity to lead the Lower School represents a chance to steward a program deeply rooted in tradition while helping shape what comes next in a dynamic, forward-thinking independent school community.

With a strong foundation already in place, the next Director will have the opportunity to elevate the Lower School program by strengthening instructional coherence, supporting excellent teaching, and ensuring alignment with the School’s mission and long-term vision.

This is a deeply relational role that calls for a leader who is visible, engaged, and genuinely invested in the daily life of the division. The Director will partner closely with faculty and families, stewarding a culture defined by warmth, clarity, and high expectations. As the School continues to grow thoughtfully, the Director will help preserve the intimacy and joy that define the Lower School while guiding its continued evolution.

THE SCHOOL

Founded in 1984, The Meadows School is a non-sectarian, college-preparatory independent school serving approximately 1,000 students from Pre-K through Grade 12.

What began as a small Lower School planted in the high desert of an undeveloped Las Vegas suburb has grown into a vibrant, full-scale academic community at the heart of Summerlin. In fact, TMS was the first building in Summerlin, on land donated by the Howard Hughes Corporation, believing that a great education and a world-class school would attract the sorts of families who could build a dynamic and ambitious community. Photographs lining the hallways of the school tell this story—images of a single building surrounded by open desert slowly giving way to a campus alive with classrooms, gathering spaces, and play. These visual reminders capture both the school’s entrepreneurial beginnings and its steady, thoughtful growth. Today, Meadows stands as a confident, mission-driven institution, still rooted in its origins even as it hums with energy, curiosity, and possibility.

Widely regarded as the leading independent school in Nevada, Meadows offers a comprehensive and thoughtfully designed educational experience that balances academic rigor with creativity, character development, and student well-being.

The academic program is intentionally broad and deep, providing students with a strong liberal arts foundation alongside robust offerings in STEM, the arts, athletics, and experiential learning. Across all divisions, Meadows emphasizes critical thinking, clear communication, ethical decision-making, and a love of learning. Students are supported by talented faculty who are committed to knowing each learner well and who create classrooms marked by intellectual engagement, curiosity, and respect.

Meadows is also defined by its deeply felt sense of community—one that is most clearly reflected in the voices of its students. When asked what they love most about the Lower School, students point to traditions that blend joy, purpose, and learning: an annual bake sale, like none other, that raises funds to give back to the broader community; signature academic experiences like Mount Olympus, where students dress in character and present their learning, and American Pride, where they proudly memorize and celebrate all U.S. presidents. They also speak fondly of quieter, relational moments—such as Book Buddies, when older students read alongside kindergartners, forging meaningful near-peer connections. Together, these experiences capture the spirit of Meadows: a place where curiosity is nurtured, confidence is built, and students are invited—early and often—to see themselves as capable learners and caring community members.

With a clear mission, strong leadership, and a culture that values both excellence and balance, The Meadows School prepares students not only for success in college but for lives of purpose, integrity, and engagement. Learn more about the school’s mission and core values: <https://www.themeadowsschool.org/about-us/mission-core-values>



THE PLACE

Set against the foothills of Red Rock Canyon, Summerlin offers a version of Las Vegas that surprises first-time visitors and deeply resonates with those who choose to call it home. Designed intentionally around neighborhoods, trails, parks, and shared gathering spaces, Summerlin is often described by residents as “a place where life feels connected and balanced.” Miles of walking paths, easy access to outdoor adventure, and thoughtfully planned community spaces create a setting that is both vibrant and grounded. While Las Vegas is often associated with its global entertainment profile, Summerlin offers a distinctly different experience—one defined by family-centered neighborhoods, access to the outdoors, and a strong sense of community. It is within this carefully designed environment—one that values wellness, nature, and family life—that The Meadows School has flourished.

Located on a beautifully landscaped 40-acre campus, The Meadows School offers a learning environment that is both expansive and intimate. The campus is purposefully designed to support curiosity, connection, and exploration, with dedicated spaces for academic learning, the arts, athletics, and play.

The Meadows draws families who value both academic excellence and balance. With access to cultural institutions, professional sports, national parks, and major transportation hubs, the region offers an exceptional quality of life. The campus itself feels calm, welcoming, and intentional—a setting that supports meaningful relationships and focused learning at every stage of a student’s development.





THE PEOPLE

The Meadows School has earned a reputation in part due to the strength and capacity of its people. The community is defined by shared purpose, high expectations, and a genuine commitment to students as individuals. Families are engaged and supportive, and students are encouraged to take intellectual risks while developing confidence, empathy, and character.

Faculty are deeply invested in their work. Many Lower School teachers hold advanced degrees in education or curriculum and instruction, and the division benefits from a strong cohort of veteran educators—some now teaching the children of former students—who carry forward the school's traditions with pride and care. The culture is open, collegial, and joyful: classroom doors are open, melodies drift from the centrally located music room, and teachers post on their doors the new practices they are exploring and the teaching approaches they are developing as reflective, growing educators. It is a place where professional expertise and shared curiosity coexist, and where teaching is clearly both a craft and a calling.

Under the leadership of Head of School Dr. Jay Berckley, The Meadows has entered a period of renewed energy and clarity. Enrollment growth, strengthened leadership structures, and increased philanthropic momentum reflect a school moving forward with intention. Within this context, the Lower School plays a central role in shaping the Meadows experience—establishing the foundation for lifelong learning and a strong sense of belonging.

THE PROGRAM

The Lower School at The Meadows serves students in Kindergarten through Grade 5 and is grounded in the belief that childhood is a time for wonder, exploration, and purposeful growth. The program emphasizes strong foundational skills in literacy and mathematics while fostering curiosity, creativity, and independence across all subject areas. Learning is active and engaging, with students encouraged to ask questions, collaborate with peers, and make meaningful connections across disciplines.

Specialist programs in art, music, physical education, library, and technology enrich the core academic experience and support whole-child development. Social-emotional learning, character education, and community-building are intentionally woven into daily life, helping students develop empathy, resilience, and confidence. Teachers know their students well and partner closely with families, creating a nurturing environment where children feel safe to take risks and grow.

As students move through the Lower School, they are guided toward increasing independence and responsibility, building the habits of mind and heart that prepare them for success in Middle School and beyond.

An overview of the Lower School is available here: <https://www.themeadowsschool.org/academics/lower-school>

THE WORK AHEAD

The Director of the Lower School serves as the academic, cultural, and operational leader of the Kindergarten through Grade 5 division. Reporting directly to the Head of School, the Director provides oversight of curriculum, instruction, faculty supervision, and daily operations, while ensuring a safe, joyful, and developmentally appropriate environment for students.

The Lower School's foundations are strong, grounded in the history and traditions that live within the school's original building. At the same time, the next Director will collaborate with the Assistant Director, grade-level leaders, and a dedicated faculty to thoughtfully advance a modern, research-informed curriculum and philosophy of teaching and learning.

This leadership role is not merely administrative; it is an invitation to steward the heart of childhood at Meadows. The Director of the Lower School will lead a division known for exceptional teaching,

joyful learning, and a deeply rooted sense of belonging. They will strengthen the program, elevate the culture, inspire faculty, and uphold the values that define the earliest and most formative years of a Meadows education.

The Lower School is central to the School's long-term strategic plan. As Meadows prepares for thoughtful expansion, the Lower School will grow in size, depth, and opportunity. The division's next director will contribute significantly to this vision, ensuring that childhood remains cherished, foundational skills remain strong, and the culture remains joyful, warm, and purposeful.

This role requires thoughtful coordination of schedules, programs, and communication, as well as close collaboration with colleagues across the School. The Director plays a key role in supporting faculty growth, maintaining consistency in practice, and ensuring that systems and structures serve both students and teachers effectively. Clear communication, strong organizational skills, and a steady presence are essential to the success of this work.





KEY AREAS OF LEADERSHIP

Teaching, Learning, and Program

Excellence: The Director of the Lower School will lead curricular and pedagogical coherence across grades K–5, support faculty in implementing research-based instructional practices, strengthen assessment and student support systems, and ensure that teaching and learning reflect the mission and core values of the School.

Community, Culture, and Student

Experience: The Director will cultivate a joyful, inclusive, and nurturing Lower School culture—shaping daily student life, traditions, and routines while protecting the wonder of childhood and ensuring that every student is known, supported, and celebrated.

Faculty Growth and Leadership

Development: The Director will recruit, supervise, mentor, and evaluate faculty and staff; foster a culture of collaboration and professional growth; partner closely with Human Resources; and model empathy, professionalism, and emotional intelligence.

Operational Stewardship and Division

Management: The Director will oversee the day-to-day operations of the division, collaborate with colleagues across campus to ensure smooth systems and clear communication, and steward a Lower School environment that balances warmth, structure, and mission-aligned practice.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal Director of the Lower School will be a student-centered, values-driven educator with experience in elementary education and school leadership. They will bring a deep understanding of child development, curriculum, and pedagogy, along with the ability to support and inspire faculty through collaboration and professional growth.

This leader will be warm, approachable, and confident—someone who communicates clearly, listens deeply, and builds trust with students, parents, and colleagues. Experience in independent schools is strongly preferred, as is a demonstrated commitment to equity, belonging, and the holistic development of children. Above all, the successful candidate will bring energy, optimism, and a genuine love for Lower School life.

The Director of the Lower School is a mentor, an instructional leader, and a community builder. They will support teachers through professional growth, strengthen alignment of curriculum and pedagogy, and ensure that students experience a learning journey marked by belonging, challenge, and delight. They will partner closely with families, building trust through clear communication and a child-centered approach.

This is a pivotal moment for divisional leadership at Meadows. The School's evolving academic programs, enhanced investments in faculty development, and long-range growth plan all require a leader who brings clarity, warmth, and strategic insight to the earliest years of student learning. The Director of the Lower School will ensure daily alignment between mission and execution and will help shape the systems and spirit that make extraordinary learning possible.

HOW TO APPLY

Candidates interested in applying to be the Director of the Lower School at The Meadows School may apply online at:

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

The application includes:

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

Applications will be reviewed as they are received this winter. This search will move quickly so candidates are encouraged to submit their materials as soon as possible for full consideration. The next Director of the Lower School will begin in July 2026.

If you have any questions about the search, please contact the consultants from Resource Group 175, who are supporting the search:

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or

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