

POSITION STATEMENT

Seven Peaks School

Bend, Oregon



LEADERSHIP SEARCH

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Start Date: July 1, 2027



Overview

Since its founding in 1996, Seven Peaks School has established itself as a premier independent school in the stunning high-desert landscape of Bend, Oregon. Now, thirty years into its history, Seven Peaks is a school with a clear and compelling purpose. As the only International Baccalaureate World School in Central Oregon authorized to offer both the Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Middle Years Programme (MYP), the School occupies a singular position in the educational landscape of the Pacific Northwest and sits poised to build upon its first three decades to even greater success.

Seven Peaks serves 240 students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, drawing families from throughout Deschutes County and beyond who seek an educational experience defined by small class sizes,

dedicated teachers, a focus on the whole child, and a palpable sense of joy. The School uses the IB framework to deliver standards and curriculum across the program. Inquiry-based learning sits at the center of teaching and learning, and the School describes this approach as integral to fulfilling its mission, empowering students to think critically, creatively, and ethically. The School's commitment to IB is not merely curricular but philosophical: here, children are not passive recipients of knowledge but active agents in their own learning, equipped to navigate complexity, embrace diverse perspectives, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. As one eighth grade student put it, "Everything we learn is connected to something in the real world."



At the heart of the Seven Peaks experience is an inquiry-driven approach that encourages students to ask questions, explore deeply, and connect their learning to the world around them. Through transdisciplinary units, hands-on experiences, and project-based learning, students develop foundational skills while also growing as thinkers, communicators, and global citizens. The School's approach ensures that children do not merely learn facts; they learn how to learn.

Following a period of thoughtful leadership, renewal, and growth, Seven Peaks School seeks a new Head of School to begin July 1, 2027 who will build upon a foundation of academic excellence, deepen the School's commitment to inquiry-based learning, and guide the community toward its next chapter of development and impact. The next Head of School will join a community that values inquiry, belonging, intentionality, and joy. Seven Peaks desires a new Head who can honor the School's mission and build upon its momentum by helping the community further translate its values into an even stronger future.



MISSION

Our mission is to inspire a lifelong love of learning in our students, to enable our children to thrive in a complex world, and to challenge them within a safe and nurturing community.

Community & Place

The campus, situated in one of Oregon's most vibrant and rapidly growing communities, offers a beautiful setting for living and learning. Bend's outdoor lifestyle—its rivers, mountains, and endless blue skies—is not merely a backdrop but an integral part of the Seven Peaks experience, with signature programs like Outdoor Education connecting students to the natural world. Facilities include spacious, light-filled classrooms, gym with full-sized basketball court, state-of-the-art Design Lab, cafeteria/commons area, and outdoor play spaces. Seven Peaks sits adjacent to a public park that the School is able to use for PE, athletics, and outdoor learning.

The Seven Peaks School community is engaged, connected, and appropriately proud of its identity. Families are active participants in school life and the School's culture emphasizes collaboration, mutual respect, support, and problem-solving among all members of the community. Faculty, staff, and administration are dedicated to the School's mission and values and work hard to deeply know and build upon each child's strengths, passions, and potential. Seven Peaks, in



keeping with its IB values and goals, seeks to be a diverse and inclusive community where all feel a deep sense of belonging.

Bend, a city of just over 100,000, has experienced tremendous growth in the last few decades. Long known for its outdoor lifestyle, where people enjoy downhill and cross-country skiing, mountain biking, hiking, fishing, and more, Bend is increasingly seen as a hub for business, education, and the arts. The city is home to Oregon State University – Cascades and Central Oregon Community College and a bustling restaurant and microbrewery scene. Mt. Bachelor, just 20 minutes to the west, provides world-class skiing to residents and visitors alike. Bend is seen as both a great place to raise a family and for retirees.

Seven Peaks At-A-Glance

Founded: 1996

Grades: Pre-Kindergarten through 8th Grade

Students: 240

Faculty and Staff: 41

Operating Budget: \$4.7 Million ('26-'27 school year)

Tuition: \$19,859 ('26-'27 school year)

Annual Fund: \$175,000 ('25-'26 school year)

Foundation Reserve: \$1.4 Million

Program

Seven Peaks School uses the IB framework to deliver standards and curriculum across the program. Inquiry-based learning sits at the center of teaching and learning, and the School describes this approach as integral to fulfilling its mission. Adopting IB, beginning in 2013, has enhanced Seven Peaks' educational offerings by providing a framework that emphasizes international-mindedness, holistic development, and rigorous academic standards. The IB program encourages students to think globally and consider multiple perspectives, aligning with Seven Peaks' commitment to fostering a broad understanding of the world, promoting cultural awareness, and preparing students for a globalized future. The School also emphasizes social-emotional wellbeing and a nurturing environment in which students can learn with confidence and purpose.

The School's academic and community experience is enriched by a set of core values that are both warm and demanding: joy, child-centered, community, curiosity, intention. In practice, these values shape a school culture that values reflection, belonging, candor, and care. Seven Peaks' PreK-8 model fosters deep and enduring relationships, a strong sense of belonging, meaningful opportunities for students to lead and grow, and a platform for students to build the skills and confidence necessary to thrive in the area's most challenging high school programs. Small classes, and exceptionally dedicated and caring faculty, and a personalized learning approach are critical to its distinctive experience.

Seven Peaks offers a balanced and joyful educational experience through the core academic subjects and also including Spanish, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, PE, Design, Outdoor Education, overnight trips, MYP Friday Explorations (including skiing at Mt. Bachelor), MYP athletics, and service learning. These programs ensure that students develop not only academic knowledge but also emotional intelligence, self-regulation, and leadership skills. Graduates leave Seven Peaks prepared for the rigors of the area's public, independent, and parochial high school programs.

Visit the Seven Peaks School website at www.sevenpeaksschool.org to learn more about the program.



Strengths, Challenges, & Opportunities

The next Head of School will inherit a thriving school community with a talented faculty, a devoted parent community, and students who exude joy and a love of learning. Supported by consistent enrollment and a reputation as Central Oregon's premier IB school, Seven Peaks is well-positioned for continued success. Yet, the School also faces significant challenges and opportunities that will require thoughtful, strategic leadership. The next Head of School should be prepared to collaborate closely with the Board of Trustees and the broader community to lead Seven Peaks forward with confidence and care. Among the opportunities and priorities for the next leader are the following:

Articulating a Strategic Vision: While Seven Peaks has achieved recognition as a leading independent school, the next Head must work collaboratively with the Board of Trustees to clearly articulate a vision for the School's continuing development and formulate a plan and timeline to achieve desired goals. The School's identity as the only PreK-8 IB World School in Central Oregon offers a powerful foundation for branding and differentiation.

Managing Growth and Mission Fidelity: Bend is one of the fastest-growing communities in Oregon, presenting both opportunities and challenges. The next Head must balance the pressures that come with rapid population growth with the School's ability to stay true to and deliver on its mission, ensuring expansion rather than dilution of the Seven Peaks experience.

Strengthening Financial Sustainability and Development: Seven Peaks has an opportunity to further strengthen its long-term financial foundation. The next Head will partner closely with the Board and leadership team to ensure sound financial management, advance fundraising and development efforts, establish and grow the School's endowment, and continue building a strong culture of philanthropy in support of the school.

Nurturing the Faculty: In an increasingly competitive educational environment, attracting and retaining top faculty talent is essential. The next Head must prioritize professional development, competitive compensation, and a supportive culture that honors the teaching profession, including an effective process of evaluation.



Ensuring Appropriate Administrative Structure: After a period marked by impressive growth, the next Head of School must evaluate the current administrative structure and adjust it to provide the proper systems in order to support the needs of students, teachers, and families.

Connecting with Community: As an anchor institution in a rapidly growing mountain town, Seven Peaks has a unique opportunity to deepen its engagement with the broader Bend community. The next Head will be expected to serve as a visible, energetic presence, forging natural and meaningful connections with students, families, and community leaders.

Key Qualities & Qualifications

The successful candidate will be a values-driven, mission-aligned leader who embodies most if not all the following skills, qualities, characteristics, and experiences:

- Demonstrated success as an inspirational, approachable, transparent, and collaborative leader and educator.
- Deep enthusiasm for and understanding of the International Baccalaureate framework, or a demonstrated capacity to immerse oneself fully in the IB approach and become its champion.
- Pragmatic financial acumen, fundraising experience, entrepreneurial ability, and a record of ambitious and data-driven change.
- Talent in identifying, selecting, retaining, and leading outstanding teachers, staff, and administrators, as well as in supervising, motivating, and developing them.
- Demonstrated experience as an ambitious strategic thinker and implementer of strategic vision.
- Established track record creating and implementing operational systems and practices related to hiring, faculty and staff assessment, compensation, and financial management.
- Ability to serve as a visible, energetic, and engaged presence in the Seven Peaks community, forging natural and meaningful connections with students, families, faculty, and staff.
- Breadth of experience and perspective relevant to school leadership, with familiarity with school life, academics, and programming in a Pre-K through eighth grade day school.
- Personal integrity, courage, high emotional intelligence, and an inspirational spirit, along with warmth, and joy.
- Capacity to serve as an ethical, brave, decisive, and transparent role model for administrators, faculty, staff, and students, and ability to inspire others to be their best selves.
- Significant experience with building and supporting inclusive and broadly diverse communities.
- Talent in identifying, selecting, retaining, and leading outstanding teachers, staff, and administrators, as well as in supervising, motivating, and developing them.
- Strength in building authentic relationships and interconnections with a wide range of people within and beyond the school community.
- Superb written, oral, and interpersonal communication skills.





Application Process

Seven Peaks School has retained Resource Group 175 to support its search for a new Head of School. Application materials should be submitted online at:

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

An application includes a letter of interest, a resume or curriculum vitae, a personal statement that reflects your leadership philosophy, and names of five current references and contact information (references will not be contacted until the finalist stage of the process).

The deadline for receipt of all application materials is **November 30, 2026**.

Start date: **July 1, 2027**

For initial inquiries or to nominate a potential candidate, please contact:

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