

POSITION STATEMENT

Shorecrest Preparatory School

St. Petersburg, Florida



LEADERSHIP SEARCH

HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Start Date: July 1, 2027

Shorecrest
Preparatory School



Overview

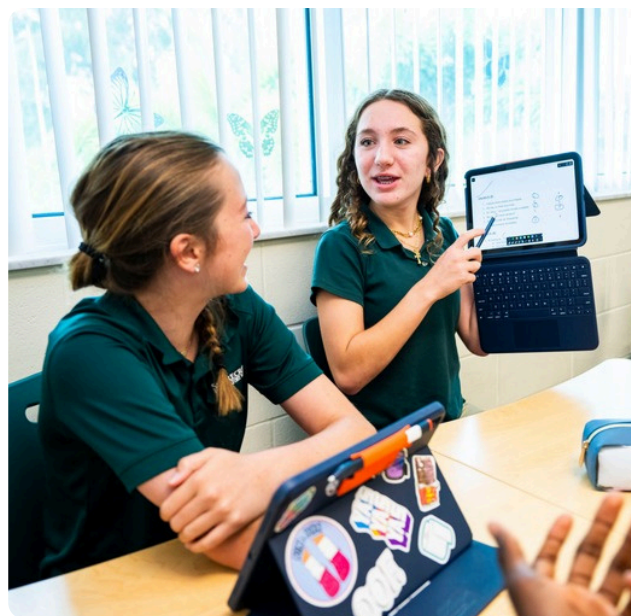
Located in the heart of vibrant St. Petersburg, Florida, Shorecrest Preparatory School is a dynamic PK3–12 community known for its commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and belonging. Founded in 1923, Shorecrest has grown into one of the Tampa Bay region's most respected independent schools, distinguished by its exceptional faculty, student-centered approach, and forward-thinking programs. Guided by a mission that emphasizes personal and academic excellence, physical well-being, creative achievement, and social responsibility, Shorecrest offers students an engaging and supportive environment in which to discover their passions, develop their talents, and grow as learners and individuals.

Shorecrest's Middle School (Grades 5–8) is a vibrant community of approximately 290 students where academic ambition is balanced with meaningful relationships, creative exploration, and an appreciation for the unique joys and challenges of early adolescence. Through a rigorous academic program, interdisciplinary learning, experiential opportunities, and a strong commitment to student well-being, the division encourages young people to develop independence, confidence, and a growing sense of responsibility. The four-year Middle School experience provides an important foundation for Upper School while offering students opportunities to explore their interests, take risks, build friendships, and discover more about themselves.



The next Head of Middle School will inherit a healthy, well-established division shaped by thoughtful and dedicated leadership. The Middle School community enjoys strong organizational structures, clear expectations, and a supportive professional culture in which experienced faculty are trusted and empowered to do their best work. This foundation creates an exciting opportunity for the next leader to build upon the division's many strengths while bringing fresh perspective, greater programmatic cohesion, and a compelling vision that celebrates the Middle School years as a distinctive and meaningful chapter in every student's educational journey.

Shorecrest now seeks a Head of Middle School, beginning July 1, 2027, to partner with the Head of School, senior leadership team, and talented faculty in guiding the division's next chapter. The ideal candidate will be an accomplished, relational, and forward-thinking educator who understands the developmental needs of young adolescents and brings warmth, creativity, and enthusiasm to school leadership. This is a compelling opportunity to join a thriving school community, champion an exceptional Middle School experience, and help shape a future defined by academic excellence, joyful learning, and meaningful connections.



Shorecrest Preparatory School

Mission

Shorecrest is a college preparatory school that educates a diverse community of students to become lifelong learners in the pursuit of personal and academic excellence, physical well-being, creative achievement, and the development of a commitment to social responsibility.

Vision

Create a legacy of inclusive, innovative, and transformational education that ignites the potential of all learners.

Core Values

Responsibility, Respect, Integrity, Knowledge, Compassion

The Middle School at Shorecrest

Shorecrest's Middle School is intentionally designed as a four-year experience spanning Grades 5–8. Serving approximately 290 students, the division recognizes early adolescence as an important period of academic, social, and emotional growth. Beginning in fifth grade and continuing through sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, this period gives students time to develop greater organization, independence, and autonomy within a supportive environment before making the transition to Upper School. Average class size is 14 students.

The academic program combines a rigorous, student-centered curriculum with project- and problem-based learning that encourages students to explore concepts deeply and make connections across disciplines. Core study includes English, mathematics, science, social studies, and world languages, while students have opportunities in art, drama, music, entrepreneurship, technology, and physical education and health. Interdisciplinary grade-level teaching teams support integrated learning, and students can pursue electives and activities including the Startup Academy, robotics, debate, music, and the arts.

Choice and exploration are important elements of the Middle School experience. Programs such as Drop

Everything & STEAM Week and the Ross Roeder Institute for Financial Literacy, Entrepreneurship & Economics complement classroom learning, while a 1:1 iPad program supports student ownership of learning and thoughtful integration of technology. Middle School students also benefit from dedicated spaces for robotics, visual arts, music and drama, science, project work, and collaboration.

Relationships and student well-being are central to the division. Each student is part of a small advisory group led by a faculty advisor who serves as an important point of connection for academic, social, and emotional development. Students begin each morning in Circle of Power and Respect (CPR), where advisory activities emphasize community building, empathy, problem solving, and connection. Middle School students also have access to Shorecrest's Center for Academic Excellence & Student Well-Being, including a dedicated Middle School Counselor and Middle School Learning Specialist.





Learning extends well beyond the classroom. Grade-level field experiences provide opportunities for students and teachers to connect academic study with experiential learning and community building. Fifth graders go to Kennedy Space Center for Astronaut Training Experience; sixth graders take part in outdoor education focused on leadership, communication, and collaboration; seventh graders travel to St. Augustine to explore Florida's history and environment; and eighth graders culminate their Middle School experience with a four-day trip to Washington, D.C., integrating their study of American history with learning across disciplines.

Students also have broad opportunities to discover interests and develop talents through co-curricular activities, arts, clubs, and athletics. Middle School offerings

include Band, Jr. Thespians, Forensics, FIRST LEGO League Robotics, and other activities, while students may begin participating in Shorecrest's interscholastic Chargers Athletics program in sixth grade. Together, these experiences create a Middle School program that balances challenge with support while giving young adolescents increasing opportunities for independence, exploration, connection, and responsibility.

Learn more about the Middle School program:

<https://www.shorecrest.org/academics/middle-school-grades-5-8->

Read about experiential travel and field experiences:

<https://www.shorecrest.org/school-life/travel-experiences>



The Middle School Opportunity

Key Responsibilities for the Head of Middle School

The Head of Middle School serves as the division's chief academic and community leader, overseeing all aspects of the Grades 5–8 program. Working closely with the Head of School, senior leadership team, and Middle School faculty, the next leader will ensure a vibrant, developmentally responsive educational experience that reflects Shorecrest's mission and core values. Responsibilities include supporting and developing faculty, guiding curriculum and instruction, overseeing daily operations and student support, communicating with parents regularly around a variety of topics, managing a division budget, and fostering a culture of academic excellence, belonging, and personal growth. The Head of Middle School will also serve as a visible and engaged presence throughout the community, building strong partnerships with families and collaborating across divisions to support a cohesive PK3–12 experience.

Priorities, Opportunities and Challenges

Articulate and Champion a Compelling Middle School Vision

Building upon a strong academic foundation and an established culture of care, the next Head of Middle School will articulate a clear educational philosophy that celebrates the unique developmental needs and opportunities of students in Grades 5–8. This vision will position the Middle School as a distinctive and meaningful experience in its own right while maintaining its important role in preparing students for Upper School.

Strengthen the Four-Year Middle School Experience

Working collaboratively with faculty, the next leader will bring greater cohesion and intentionality to the four-year Middle School journey. Opportunities include expanding interdisciplinary and project-based learning, refreshing electives, developing meaningful signature experiences, and creating a thoughtful progression of academic expectations, leadership opportunities, and personal growth.

Advance Academic Excellence and Developmentally Responsive Teaching

Shorecrest's ambitious academic program and extensive student support resources provide an excellent foundation for continued growth. The next leader will champion instructional practices that integrate differentiated learning, executive functioning, and social-emotional development while balancing academic rigor with student well-being, curiosity, and opportunities for exploration.

Cultivate a Positive, Inclusive, and Student-Centered Culture

Building upon established expectations and strong advisory relationships, the next Head of Middle School will foster greater student voice, independence, and ownership of the community's culture. This work includes refining approaches to student behavior and accountability, celebrating individuality and achievement, and creating opportunities for joy, belonging, and age-appropriate independence.

Deepen Family Partnerships and Cross-Divisional Connections

The next leader will strengthen communication and meaningful engagement with families throughout the Middle School years while fostering collaboration across Shorecrest's divisions. Particular attention will be given to the transitions into fifth and ninth grades, creating greater continuity in the student experience and strengthening relationships, community confidence, and retention.

Empower Faculty and Lead Thoughtful Programmatic Evolution

Shorecrest's experienced and dedicated faculty represent one of the division's greatest strengths. The next leader will preserve the professional trust and autonomy that teachers value while providing visible instructional leadership, meaningful feedback, and opportunities for collaboration and professional growth. Through classroom engagement, shared priorities, and thoughtful program evaluation, the Head of Middle School will help translate promising ideas into sustainable practices.

***The Ideal Candidate***

Shorecrest seeks an experienced, engaging, and student-centered educator who understands and celebrates the unique opportunities of the middle school years. The next Head of Middle School will be a visible, collaborative, and forward-thinking leader who brings warmth, creativity, and a clear educational vision to a thriving community.

The ideal candidate will appreciate the division's strong foundation while inspiring faculty, students, and families to embrace new possibilities for growth and innovation.

Leadership Attributes

- Approachable, visible, and relational, with a genuine enthusiasm for working with young adolescents.
- A confident and collaborative leader who balances clear expectations with empathy, flexibility, and good judgment.
- An effective communicator and community builder who inspires trust, strengthens partnerships, and fosters belonging.
- A thoughtful, creative, and optimistic leader who celebrates individuality, encourages student voice, and brings joy to school life.

Academic and Instructional Leadership

- Deep understanding of middle school pedagogy, curriculum development, and the academic, social, and emotional needs of young adolescents.
- Commitment to academic excellence, innovative teaching, and developmentally appropriate expectations that balance challenge with student well-being.
- An accomplished instructional leader who supports faculty through meaningful feedback, professional development, and collaborative program design.
- Ability to foster interdisciplinary learning, experiential education, and a cohesive academic experience across Grades 5–8.



Strategic and Organizational Skills

- Strong organizational skills and the ability to build upon effective systems while thoughtfully evaluating opportunities for improvement.
- A collaborative systems thinker who can articulate a compelling vision, establish shared priorities, and translate ideas into sustainable practices.
- Ability to work effectively across divisions, strengthening academic continuity, student transitions, and the broader PK3–12 community.

Personal Qualities

- Emotional intelligence, integrity, humility, and a genuine appreciation for the talents and contributions of others.
- An energetic, compassionate, and authentic presence who leads with warmth, humor, and optimism.
- A curious, reflective, and growth-oriented educator who models the creativity, resilience, and lifelong learning Shorecrest seeks to cultivate in its students.

How To Apply

Candidates interested in applying to be the Head of Middle School at Shorecrest Preparatory School may apply online at:

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

Required application materials:

- Letter of interest addressing: Why Shorecrest, and why now?
- Resume
- Personal Statement or Educational Philosophy

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Initial conversations with the consultant will continue through the season, with school interviews beginning in December. We anticipate making a hire early in the new year, with the selected Head of Middle School beginning in July 2027. You are encouraged to submit materials promptly if interested.

For questions about the search, please contact the consultant from Resource Group 175 supporting this search:

Adam Peichert: adam.peichert@rg175.com

Thank you for your interest in Shorecrest Preparatory School. We look forward to learning more about your interest in this exciting opportunity.