



The Children's School

Nurture the Amazing

The Children's School

Position Statement for Director of Upper School

Atlanta, Georgia
July 1, 2023

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Director of Upper School



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POSITION STATEMENT | START DATE: JULY 1, 2023



THE OPPORTUNITY

The Children's School (TCS) of Atlanta, Georgia, an age 3 to grade 8 school located in the heart of Atlanta's Midtown neighborhood, is seeking an authentic, child-centered educator to join the leadership team as Director of Upper School beginning in July 2023.

The Children's School is a vibrant community that is passionate about unlocking the potential of students. Caring, experienced and collaborative faculty foster a warm, nurturing environment in which students are challenged to develop their academic and social-emotional skills and attributes to become the best versions of themselves. TCS's intentionally small community stresses strong relationships among students, faculty and parents so everyone is known. These relationships are a critical prerequisite for deep learning,

and encourage an environment where everyone has the right and responsibility to share their ideas, knowledge and feelings with each other.

The Director of Upper School (grades 4-8) will maintain academic and co-curricular programs that support an innovative and child-centered curriculum that is aligned with diversity, equity, inclusion and justice (DEIJ) principles in conjunction with the strategic vision of the School, and in partnership with Lower School (age 3-grade 3) programming. They will also function as chief spokesperson of programs, expectations, and guidelines for the division and establish a positive school climate that includes high expectations, interactive teaching and clearly defined goals.

THE CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

The Children's School is recognized locally and nationally as a place where students learn by doing; where diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the culture and are in service of each student's being supported to be their authentic selves; where play is serious learning; and where children are prepared to make an impact on the world now and into the future.

Founded in 1970 by Lila McDill, an experienced and visionary educator, The Children's School empowers students to be courageous hands-on, open-hearted lifelong learners. Play is viewed as a powerful tool for igniting curiosity and inspiring deep engagement with learning, and it is at the center of the TCS experience. Through play, students learn to exploit their natural curiosity for all things. Most importantly, children are treasured as children, and there is a concerted effort to protect the natural innocence and an appropriate developmental arc for young people.

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Academic work occurs within a community supported by inspiring faculty and where rich diversity ensures that all students and adults feel true belonging. The culture at TCS is important to the fulfillment of its learning goals, purposefully so. As one parent noted, *"Nothing happens without children being supported and feeling good."* TCS does this exceedingly well. Kindness and civility are expected and are evident in the interactions between and among children and adults. It is truly a place where all members are encouraged and supported to be their full selves.

Innovation has been central to The Children's School growth and success in the last decade. With its first eighth grade class graduating in May 2019, TCS now has a fully realized 3-year-old through grade 8 program which has raised the School's profile and better aligned it to be more competitive in the independent school market in Atlanta. Much thorough and thoughtful work, including a recent strategic planning process, has been done to position TCS well for continued and future success.

UPPER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The middle years of school are a time of transition and vulnerability. The journey to adulthood is not yet complete, so TCS honors both the emerging adult and the child who remains by building on the joy, wonder and curiosity of this age while also developing the skills and knowledge needed for teens to succeed in high school and beyond.

The Director of Upper School shepherds students through this period beginning with students in the fourth grade. By focusing on this early transition into the middle years, the School is able to scaffold and support student needs into and all along the way.

TCS understands that Middle Grades students grapple with big ideas, forge community connections, and explore the question of who they are in this world – distinct from friends, family and teachers. The curriculum is grounded in well-respected national standards that articulate expectations for content mastery, critical thinking, and applied learning. Students develop deep understandings in social studies, science, math and writing, and apply that knowledge to hands-on, community-based problem-solving in project-based learning (PBL) units which allows them to: develop strong academic skills from faculty who are experts in their subjects; understand how academics answer important questions about their world; and establish the advocacy and communication skills to add their unique voice, perspective and contributions to the local and national dialogue about issues like social justice, equity and sustainability.



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MISSION, VALUES, AND PHILOSOPHY

The **mission** of The Children's School is to enrich minds and inspire dreams.

Values: TCS is a highly engaged, compassionate, courageous and diverse community of student and adult learners. In keeping with the child-centered vision of the School's founder, Lila McDill, TCS honors every member of this community as their authentic self. Community members embrace play in everything they do because it is essential to the intellectual, social, emotional, physical and cultural development of young children and young adults. The joyful and nurturing campus in the heart of Midtown Atlanta supports students to take risks and challenges them to make a positive impact on our ever-changing world.

Philosophy: The Children's School's vibrant community is passionate about unlocking the potential of children from early childhood through eighth grade. Caring, experienced and collaborative faculty foster a warm, nurturing environment in which students are challenged to develop their skills and attributes to become the best versions of themselves. The School stresses strong relationships among students, faculty, parents and community as a critical prerequisite for deep learning, and encourages an environment where everyone has the right and responsibility to share their ideas, knowledge and feelings with each other.

KEYS FOR THE NEXT DIRECTOR OF UPPER SCHOOL

The Director of Upper School is the strategic educational leader and manager of the Upper School division (grades 4th-8th), optimizing resources and ensuring alignment of the division's plans for continuous improvement with the School's strategic plan. With the Director of Curriculum and the Upper School Director of Student Life and High School Counseling, the Director is responsible for fostering culture and community, overseeing teaching and learning, curriculum and instruction, faculty support and development, parent and student guidance, and student-based activities. The Director of Upper School collaborates with the Director of Lower School and Director of Extended Day & Summer Learning to ensure program continuity, communications and consistency. The Director of Upper School provides effective crisis and issue management consultation. This role models continuous commitment to building a talented teaching team that drives instructional excellence and child-centered education.



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RESPONSIBILITIES

Using the new strategic plan as a guide, the next Director of Upper School at TCS should be prepared to work in effective collaboration with the Head of School to:

Maintain academic and co-curricular programs that support an innovative and child-centered curriculum in conjunction with the strategic vision of the School, and in partnership with Lower School programming. Functions as chief spokesperson of programs, expectations, and guidelines for the division and establishes a positive school climate that includes high expectations, interactive teaching, and clearly defined goals.

Model continuous commitment to building a talented teaching team that drives instructional excellence and child-centered education in an environment of DEIJ. Monitors instruction regularly, providing feedback on classroom management and teaching, and serving as a consultant to teachers on teaching methods and school procedures. Fosters professional development, opportunities for Faculty collaboration and learning, and healthy teaching partnerships. Provides professional leadership and support to Faculty.

Support the admission and re-enrollment activities of the School. Works with the Director of Enrollment Management on enrollment strategy and is responsible for meeting retention goals. Meets regularly with prospective parents during the admissions season, participates in the screening process for prospective students, and provides feedback for admissions of students to the program.

Work closely with the STEAM and Digital Literacy Specialist on technology goals, classroom integration, and development of the innovative capacity of the Faculty through observations, collaboration, and professional development.

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APPLICATION

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

The application includes:

- Letter of Interest
- Resume
- Personal Statement/Education Philosophy
- List of Five References with contact information (References will not be contacted without prior notice)

This search will be moving quickly, and so, if interested, you should apply soon. Interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis with the goal of completing the search in March 2023.

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

Thank you for your interest in The Children's School. We look forward to hearing more about your interest in this rare opportunity for an outstanding educator.

The Children's School maintains a strict policy of nondiscrimination in regard to employment. All aspects of employment at TCS are governed on the basis of competence, merit, and qualifications, and will not be influenced in any manner by race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, veteran's status, disability, or any other classes referred in applicable state and federal laws.