



**Position Statement  
Head of Lower School Search  
The Wheeler School**

**Providence, Rhode Island  
Start Date: July 1, 2024**



# Head of Lower School Search

## Position Statement



The Lower School curriculum is designed to be dynamic, engaging, and comprehensive. Balancing core subjects with a rich array of specials, the curriculum encourages students to deepen current talents and explore new interests. Kindergarten through Grade 5 are located in bright, recently renovated classrooms on the Providence campus. The Nest Preschool Program, located at The Wheeler Farm and officially launched in 2020, serves students aged two years, nine months through five years-old, offering a nature-based curriculum that integrates academics and social-emotional skills and inspires a love of learning and connection to the natural world. Nest enrollment has grown quickly, providing a robust feeder for the Kindergarten program. The school projects further growth and ground will be broken this spring for a new, purpose-built Nest facility at the Farm.

Wheeler's Lower School faculty are dedicated mentors and guides and provide inspiration for their students. Committed to providing a well-rounded education, the teachers bring passion,

With its mission, "To learn our powers and be answerable for their use," The Wheeler School is known as a place where students from nursery through grade 12 build empathy, knowledge, and skills needed to live lives of consequence and impact. Located in Providence, RI, Wheeler has, since its founding in 1889, built a reputation for excellence, balancing academic challenge, support, and enrichment in a dynamic learning environment where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

The Wheeler School seeks a new Head of Lower School for July 2024 who has the vision and skill to lead a division committed to fostering curiosity, critical thinking, and a strong sense of community for 200 students from two years, nine months through Grade 5 on two campuses. This is an extraordinary opportunity for an educational leader committed to a thoughtful and challenging curriculum along with personal attention and encouragement to help students reach their full potential.



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expertise, and creativity to their classrooms. An unwavering commitment to each student's individual growth ensures that learners receive personalized attention and encouragement to achieve academic and non-academic goals. A strong commitment to professional development at Wheeler means that faculty embrace their own continued learning even as they inspire their students.

Signature aspects of Wheeler's Lower School include the following:

- Aerie offers school-wide enrichment through an extensive set of curricular and extra-curricular offerings, allowing students to identify and develop individual interests and talents.
- Hamilton School at Wheeler is a unique and innovative school-within-a-school for students with language-based learning differences. The Hamilton School program provides small, group direct instruction in core academic content areas to strengthen and reinforce specific skills to allow for academic success. Additionally, Hamilton students are fully integrated with their Wheeler classmates for art, library, music, dance, theater, PE, Aerie electives, Unity and Diversity and health classes, lunch and recess, field trips and after-school sports, and other non-academic programs.
- The 120-acre Wheeler Farm in Seekonk, MA (15-minute drive from Providence) is home to athletic facilities, Nest Early Childhood Program, a summer camp, ropes course, and more. The academic program at all grade levels takes advantage of The Farm, which complements the city campus and is used virtually every day of the school year for activities ranging from athletics to curricular projects and outdoor education.



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Embracing the importance of creating an environment that includes people and viewpoints from a variety of cultures, backgrounds, and ways of life, the Office of Unity & Diversity supports the ongoing DEIB efforts at Wheeler. The Lower School is the foundation of the school's ongoing practice, as its promise statement reads, of empathy and compassion. The Unity & Diversity curriculum in the Lower School uses texts and materials to give voice to people and perspectives previously unheard, and the faculty engages with one another, including two U&D coordinators, and school leadership in ongoing learning about the lives and experiences of Wheeler students, families, and colleagues.

Visit Wheeler's [website](#) to learn more about all aspects of the program.

## RESPONSIBILITIES, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The next Head of Lower School should be prepared to collaborate with a forward-thinking and devoted school community to fulfill Wheeler's mission and to lead the division wisely and confidently into the future by embracing current challenges and seizing new opportunities. These include but are not limited to:

- Leading a joyful, diverse, energetic, and purposeful Lower School where everyone, without exception, belongs.
- Building upon the culture of collaboration and professional growth in the division.
- Evaluating existing programs and making necessary changes to ensure



Lower School students are developing the skills, competencies, and attitudes necessary to thrive in Middle and Upper School and beyond.

- Partnering with the Head of School and Nest Director to continue the development of this unique preschool program to its full potential.
- Balance fierce advocacy for Lower School within N-12 context; work collaboratively within a high-functioning leadership team.
- Being a visible presence for students, faculty, staff, and parents/guardians; fostering community and acting as chief Lower School ambassador.
- Recruiting, managing, inspiring, supporting, and retaining excellent, diverse, and representative faculty and staff.
- Continue effective partnership with The Hamilton School to ensure Wheeler's ability to meet the needs of the neurodiverse student body.
- Partner with the enrollment team to promote the Lower School to prospective parents.

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### KEY QUALIFICATIONS AND QUALITIES

The successful candidate for Head of Lower School at The Wheeler School will be a mission and community-driven leader who embodies and demonstrates most, if not all, of the following skills, qualities, characteristics, and experiences:

- A teacher and learner who leads with expertise in child development, passion for students and teachers, and openness to new ideas and best practices in curriculum and pedagogy.
- A fierce advocate for the Lower School with an understanding of and ability to work effectively within the complexity of a Nursery-12 school.
- A high EQ leader who listens well, considers all viewpoints, can make difficult decisions, and can bring people together around a shared vision.
- Experience building consensus and leading and managing change.
- Demonstrated commitment to and experience with supporting an equitable and inclusive school culture.
- An engaged, visible presence with students, faculty, parents, and guardians.
- An effective communicator in writing and public speaking and with all constituencies.
- A joyful leader who is transparent, approachable, collaborative, empathetic, and humble.



### APPLICATION PROCESS

The Wheeler School has retained Resource Group 175 to support the search for a new Head of Lower School. To apply, interested candidates must submit a cover letter, resume, personal statement, and writing sample. Candidates may submit these materials online at: <http://rg175.com/candidate/signup>

Application deadline: **January 19, 2024**

Start date: **July 1, 2024**

For inquiries or if you would like to nominate a candidate for this position, please contact Tony Featherston at [tfeatherston@RG175.com](mailto:tfeatherston@RG175.com).