

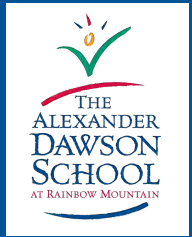
Position Statement Head of Middle School The Alexander Dawson School

Las Vegas, Nevada
Start Date: July 1, 2024



Head of Middle School

Position Statement



The independent school experience is about more than academics at Alexander Dawson in Las Vegas. Learning happens both in and outside the classroom with teachers, peers, and the greater community. Dawson thoroughly believes that the development of mind, body and character is essential to an enriched, happy, and fulfilling life. The emphasis on experiencing education is why Dawson graduates thrive and rise to the challenge of being an agent of change.

OVERVIEW

The Alexander Dawson School at Rainbow Mountain, an independent school located on 33 beautiful acres in the community of Summerlin, is Nevada's first Stanford University Challenge Success partner school for students in early childhood through grade 8. Utilizing the unique Challenge Success framework, Dawson uses research-based strategies and programs that emphasize student well-being and a healthy school-life balance to create more engaged, motivated, and resilient learners. At Dawson, students achieve their individual potential while savoring life, and meeting the challenges of the world.

Founded in 2000, Dawson is an extremely valued driven whole-child program where students come first in all aspects of the school. This is a school with a dream big mentality that is overly friendly and very genuine in doing so. The school lives by a continuous improvement model led by a robust leadership team that would be the envy of many schools nationwide.

VALUES, MISSION, VISION AND DEI

Core Values

- Belonging
- Engagement
- Advocacy
- Resilience

Mission

The Alexander Dawson school at Rainbow Mountain is a nurturing learning community for students in preschool through grade 8 that challenges students to achieve excellence in mind, body and character.

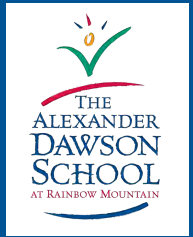
Vision

Our graduates will be ready to achieve their individual potential, savor life and meet the challenges of the world.

Diversity Statement

The distinct Dawson learning environment is reflective of the diverse community that surrounds the school. The celebration of differences drives the Dawson mission and unifies the schoolwide focus of self and social awareness. Students benefit from working with and learning from other students and teachers who are varied in learning styles, socioeconomic, backgrounds, race, religions, ideology, sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression, culture and ethnicity. Dawson is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming learning community.

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HISTORY

In 1996, the Alexander Dawson Foundation decided to open a school in the Las Vegas Valley, the foundation's home for more than 30 years. Located on a 33-acre campus in the beautiful community of Summerlin, the Alexander Dawson Foundation spent \$58 million for the land and facilities. The school broke ground in 1999 and the Alexander Dawson School at Rainbow Mountain opened on September 6, 2000 with over 150 students from kindergarten through fifth grade.

From 2001-2003, the school expanded by adding sixth, seventh and eighth grades to the curriculum. A three-year-old preschool curriculum was added in 2009.

G. B. Henderson was a philanthropist and entrepreneur, fascinated by technology, education, and innovation. He founded the Alexander Dawson Foundation in 1957 to provide students with access to the highest quality of education in the United States. Mr. Henderson's goal was to inspire children to not just learn, but to be responsible citizens, who would lead purposeful lives to counter the lack of inspiration he experienced to his own educational journey.



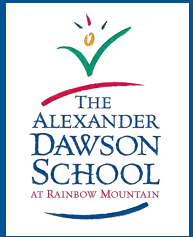
LOCATION

Summerlin is Las Vegas' premier urban and residential community nestled against the breathtaking Red Rock National Recreation Area. This 200,000 acre federally protected playground holds international clout and boasts more than 2,000 climbing routes, more than a dozen hiking trails for all levels, and a scenic 13-mile loop which is a hotspot for cyclists and runners. With endless amenities, surrounded by unparalleled beauty, exploring your backyard takes on a whole new meaning. Set against the breathtaking backdrop of chiseled mountains and crimson rocks, Summerlin is elegantly removed from the city. Endless sunshine, minimal traffic, and proximity to National Parks are some of the wonderful benefits of living in the greater Las Vegas region.



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PROGRAM

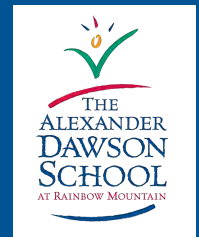
Dawson provides an exciting education for early childhood through eighth grade by promoting programs that are designed to purposefully provide students with a cohesive, age-appropriate, educational, experience. A Dawson education meets students where they are and transforms them into engaged citizens, lifelong learners, leaders, and innovators. The school is divided into three divisions: early childhood, lower school, and middle school. Each division is carefully orchestrated to meet the needs of all of the learners.

The Dawson academic program is incredible. They are a Challenge Success program out of Stanford University which means they are committed to the individual pathway for each child. They have extensive project-based learning, innovation, design labs, a robust arts program, an eight-grade immersive capstone program, multiple experiential, trips, and a one-to-one laptop program beginning in the second grade. This is where modern learning truly happens. For a better description and more detail in the program, please look here: <https://www.adsrm.org/academics/learning-at-dawson>

FAST FACTS

- 118 faculty and staff
- The first Stanford University Challenge Success school in Nevada
- 40% of Dawson students identify as a person of color
- 52% of Dawson employees identify as a person of color
- There are four experiential education trips per year
- The school has five playgrounds, an organic garden, and incredible indoor academic and experiential facilities
- Dawson offers an incredible array of enrichment opportunities, including visual arts, performing arts, music, technology, orchestra, technology, innovation, design labs, and three languages
- Each division has their own design lab with laser cutting, 3-D printing, and coding
- 78% of Dawson middle school students participate in athletics, in one of the 11 competitive sports that are offered at the school
- Dawson offers an exciting after school enrichment program with both activities and classes available

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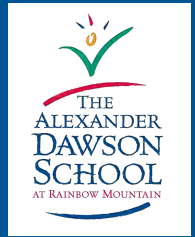
STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL

- Students always come first in everything that the school does and decisions that are made.
- The campus and facilities are fabulous.
- Security and safety at the school are a high priority, and it shows.
- Problem-Based learning starts in the early childhood program, and every teacher is trained in the gold standard PBL.
- The school maintains and delivers a whole-child approach.
- Diversity works beautifully here with a team of five DEI ambassadors.
- The faculty and students build and maintain very strong relationships.
- Students leave the school with a voice of their own.
- Innovation is readily apparent through all aspects of the program in all three divisions.
- There clearly is a dream big mentality at the school that permeates everything.
- Faculty feel treated like professionals and feel highly supported by an engaging and visionary administration.
- The Dawson community, including parents, is very tight and highly supportive of one another.
- The school operates under a continuous improvement model, and it works. They sincerely want to be a beacon for modern learning.
- Parents referred to the school as the “Dawson difference,” meaning high E.Q. throughout the entire program. Families experience a sincere and genuine commitment to diversity and inclusion and an engaging and innovative administrative team.
- Very clear mission, vision and core values statements, and the school sticks to it. They are rooted in an ambitious strategic direction and use this document as a roadmap for all Board committees and leadership teams.



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CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Dawson's next head of middle school will be an experienced middle school teacher and administrator who welcomes the fast pace of change, working with a long-tenured faculty, and working in a school with many moving parts. This is an incredibly exciting opportunity for a leader that wants to make their mark on an excellent school.

- Finding the balance between the students, the faculty, the parents, staff and others will be quite the challenge for a new person entering this community.
- This is a school with high expectations for one another. The outgoing Head of Middle School is going to be staying at the school, moving into a different position, and he's highly valued for his calm demeanor, knowledge of the students, and his method of solving problems and embracing change. These will be big shoes to fill certainly, but the right person will have an incredible opportunity to move forward with an excellent division of people and the support of the outgoing Head of Middle School.
- The next Head of Middle School must also firmly embrace the schools DEI initiatives as this is truly a wonderfully diverse school where belonging lives at the core of everyone's work.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Personal:

- Genuine care and compassion for kids and faculty.
- Highly accessible throughout each day.
- An open-minded and highly collaborative decision maker.
- Genuinely warm and friendly, even through adversity.
- A vulnerable leader who is willing to solicit feedback and commit to ongoing development.

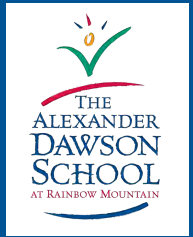
Professional:

- Highly organized.
- Excellent communication skills (speaking as well as writing).
- Appreciate and embrace neuro-diverse children.
- Smile through challenges.
- Pivot quickly with enthusiasm.
- Embrace change.
- Have and maintain confidence working through difficult conversations and circumstances.
- Be an experienced middle school teacher and preferably a middle school administrator.



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APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested applicants may apply online through the RG175's website: <https://rg175.com/candidate/signup>. The application includes a:

- Cover Letter
- Resume/C.V.
- Writing Sample

Deadline for application is **February 19, 2024**. Questions should be directed to the consultant on the search: John Farber (jfarber@rg175.com)