Thaden School
Associate Director, Middle School Division
Bentonville, Arkansas

Named in honor of Louise Thaden, a pioneering aviator who was born and raised in Bentonville, Thaden School opened in the fall of 2017 with 50 students in grades 7 and 9. With its well-resourced tuition assistance program and a national faculty, the school has grown to 220 students (grades 6-11) in just two years and is expected to grow over the next several years to serve as many as 500-550 students (grades 6-12). The projected enrollment for the middle school (grades 6-8) in the coming year is 135 students. To support this robust growth, the school seeks two associate directors for the middle school division to work with the academic leadership team on a wide range of curricular and co-curricular matters in support of the school’s ambitious mission.

The Position

Reporting to the director of the middle school, the associate directors will work on a variety of curricular and co-curricular matters, including but not limited to:

- Teaching two courses
- Serving as an administrative contact for students and parents regarding both curricular and co-curricular matters
- Leading grade-level team meetings on academic planning and student support in partnership with the learning specialist, school counselor, and other members of the administration
- Working with the director of studies on the horizontal and vertical alignment of curricula, including the articulation of appropriate standards for both skills and content
- Facilitating the development of faculty members by:
  - Supporting course development with emphasis on mission-alignment, differentiation, and standards-based assessment
  - Developing and implementing a growth-oriented teacher evaluation process
  - Providing teachers with resources, tools, information, to support classroom instruction
  - Working with the leadership team to develop professional development opportunities
- Developing and managing the implementation of a comprehensive advisory program
- Supporting the development and management of other co-curricular programs and activities, including lunch and after-school clubs, student council, social events, class trips, and retreats
- Working with the director to develop and implement policies and practices regarding student discipline, including the administration of disciplinary proceedings
- Assisting with other efforts necessary to lead and manage the school in a manner consistent with its mission and academic standards

Experience and Qualifications

- Passion for supporting students’ socio-emotional and academic growth
- Excellent judgment and discretion in handling urgent and sensitive matters
- Knowledge of best practices in course design, teaching, and standards-based grading
• Demonstrated ability to work effectively within a diverse school community
• Ability to work in a challenging, fast-paced environment that requires versatility, adaptability, resourcefulness, and attention to detail
• Excellent communication (written and oral) and interpersonal skills
• Bachelor’s degree in a relevant discipline; graduate degree(s) preferred but not required

The School and the Region

A non-sectarian independent school under the direction of its own board, Thaden School offers a challenging and innovative educational program that ignites in students a passion for discovery and learning, prepares them to succeed in college, and inspires them to lead lives of integrity, purpose, and responsible global citizenship.

At the core of the school’s mission is a commitment to balance that takes many forms: a curriculum that integrates the sciences and the humanities; indoor and outdoor teaching spaces where sustainability is a tangible part of the lesson; hands-on programs for civic engagement; athletics and physical education programs that build confidence and character through competition and meaningful participation; and a diverse faculty and staff that empower students to think deeply and expansively about their potential and place in the world. The school’s remarkably robust indexed tuition program supports the creation of a balanced learning community where students of many perspectives, talents, and interests come learn and grow stronger together.

Located on a 30-acre campus in downtown Bentonville, the school is walking distance from the town square, Brightwater Culinary Institute, The Momentary (Crystal Bridges’ center for contemporary arts), and a variety of other educational resources. The school has also engaged a nationally renowned team of architects to design an enduring and innovative campus that will spark curiosity, inspire creativity, and invite reflection. The school’s first permanent buildings opened this fall, and two more will be ready for occupation in 2021.

With more than 500,000 residents, the region combines a thriving economy with the natural beauty of the Ozarks and a rich variety of cultural and recreational amenities such as the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the Razorback Regional Greenway, the Scott Family Amazeum, and the Bentonville Film Festival. Northwest Arkansas is also home to the world headquarters of three Fortune 500 companies (Walmart, Tyson Foods, and J.B. Hunt) as well as the University of Arkansas. For more information about the region and its national rankings, see Finding NWA and the website for the Northwest Arkansas Council.

The school’s website features videos and other information regarding its educational programs, faculty and leadership team.

Applications

Please submit applications to careers@thadenschool.org by January 31, 2020, for full consideration. Applications should include a cover letter, resume, and statement of educational philosophy. The start date must be no later than July 1, 2020. Thaden School is an equal-opportunity employer and complies with all federal, state, and local laws that prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, national origin, citizenship, age (18 or older), religion, disability, marital status, veteran status, and sexual orientation.