

Leadership Opportunity at Thaden School

Dean of Arts

Bentonville, Arkansas

In July 2015, the Walton Family Foundation announced the founding of a new independent school in Bentonville, Arkansas. Named in honor of Louise Thaden, a pioneering aviator who was born and raised in Bentonville, the school opened in the fall of 2017 and has grown steadily on the strength of its nationally recruited faculty and robust tuition assistance program. The school now serves approximately 250 students in grades 6-12; enrollment is expected to reach 525 students in grades 6-12 over the next 10-12 years. The school now seeks its first Dean of Arts (Creative and Performing). The Dean of Arts will work with the leadership team and faculty to activate the school's new, state-of-the-art 12,000 sq ft performing arts building and ancillary spaces (to open in August 2021), and advance the development and implementation of the vision and strategic plan for arts programs across the middle and upper school divisions.

Primary Responsibilities

Reporting to the Dean of Academics, the Dean of Arts will play a leading role in the cultivation of the school's growing arts faculty, in the ongoing design and implementation of its curriculum and after-school programs, and in the cultivation of partnerships with other arts organizations in the community and region. The dean's portfolio will include the following responsibilities:

- Coordinating and supporting long- and short-range plans to foster a thriving performing arts program.
- Teaching one course within the performing arts disciplines.
- Partnering with the Dean of Academics to oversee the hiring and mentorship of all arts department faculty.
- Leading the development of an arts program that fosters connections between theater, music, and visual art, and leverages opportunities for community-based learning.
- Collaborating with leadership and faculty to bring visiting performing artists and programs to campus.
- Coordinating annual departmental performances, including theater productions, musical concerts, dance recitals, and all-school assemblies.
- Overseeing the Thaden School Performing Arts Building and maintaining the calendar, coordinating use of space, and managing all logistics related to both school and community-based uses.
- Supervising a Technical Manager with responsibility for overseeing the design and build of theatrical scenes, lighting, sound, projection, and video for main-stage and black box theatre productions.
- Collaborating with colleagues in Communications and Advancement to promote the performing arts internally and externally for Thaden School.

- Oversee and manage the budget for the Arts Department.
- Performing other duties as assigned by the Dean of Academics.

Experience and Qualifications

The ideal candidate will possess:

- Experience developing both disciplinary and interdisciplinary curricula.
- A collaborative spirit and a desire to think creatively about visual and performing arts.
- A passion for teaching and engaging students in performing arts.
- Ability to communicate high expectations and standards for student learning.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively within a diverse school community.
- Excellent communication skills including writing, listening, and public speaking.
- A bachelor's degree in music, theater, or related field; master's degree preferred.
- Experience in some, or all of the following
 - Theater, including acting and directing;
 - Technical Theater;
 - Choral and/or Orchestral music;
 - Composition;
 - Improvisation;
 - Dance.

About the School and the Region

A co-educational non-sectarian independent school, Thaden offers a challenging and innovative educational program that ignites in its 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. The school will graduate its first class of 28 students this spring.

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 well-resourced tuition assistance program (and need blind admissions policy) further supports the creation of a balanced learning community where many perspectives, talents, and interests come together.

Located on a 30-acre campus in downtown Bentonville, the school is walking distance from the town square, Brightwater Culinary Institute, the Momentary (a new contemporary arts museum and performance space), Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, and a variety of other educational resources. With the support of the Walton Family Foundation's Design Excellence Program, the school engaged a nationally renowned team of architects to design

an enduring and innovative campus that will spark curiosity, inspire creativity, and invite reflection. The construction of the campus will be complete before the school commences its fifth academic year in 2021. The school serves students from all parts of the growing and diverse region of [Northwest Arkansas](#), which includes Rogers, Springdale, and Fayetteville, where the flagship campus of the University of Arkansas is located.

Please visit the Thaden [website](#) for further information regarding its mission, leadership, faculty and staff, educational programs, indexed tuition program, and campus plan as well as recent news releases.

Applications

Applications should include a resume and cover letter that addresses salary requirements, if any. Applications must be submitted to our online portal for [Thaden School Job Opportunities](#) by February 26 for full consideration. The start date is negotiable but must be no later than July 1, 2021.

Thaden 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. Applications by members of all underrepresented groups, including women and people of color, are encouraged.

Salary will be competitive with the independent school sector.