In July 2015, the Walton Family Foundation announced the appointment of Clayton Marsh, former Deputy Dean of the College at Princeton University, to serve as the founding head 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 with approximately 50 students in grades 7 and 9 and will grow incrementally over the next several years to serve approximately 550-650 students in grades 6-12.

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 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.

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 further supports the creation of a balanced learning community where students of 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 (Crystal Bridges’ center for contemporary arts), and a variety of other educational resources. With generous support from the Walton Family Foundation, 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. As featured in Architect magazine, the school’s first permanent buildings opened this fall as the enrollment increased from 110 to approximately 220 students.

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 Thaden School website offers detailed information regarding its mission, leadership and faculty, educational programs, indexed tuition program, and campus plan.
The Position

The Mandarin faculty member will work closely with the division directors in the academic and socioemotional support and development of students.

The specific responsibilities of the faculty member will include:

- Teaching four sections of middle and/or upper school Mandarin
- Employing standards-based instructional and assessment practices
- Serving on a grade-level team to support the academic and socioemotional development of students
- Supporting field learning, including community-based learning and outdoor education experiences
- Integrating curricula through our signature Meals, Reels, and Wheels programs
- Acting as an advisor to a small group of students
- Sponsoring a student club and/or coaching an afterschool activity or sport
- Designing and facilitating week-long Intensives (hands-on interdisciplinary projects)
- Participating in faculty meetings and off-campus professional growth opportunities
- Working with the Division Directors to advise on curriculum development, educational technology, and other learning needs
- Supporting all school programs as needed

Experience and Qualifications

The school seeks candidates of exceptional character, creativity, and intelligence who have the drive and versatility to create an ambitious and innovative school from the ground up.

The ideal candidate for this position will have:

- Experience teaching Mandarin at the appropriate grade levels
- Mastery in the subject area (a bachelor’s degree in a relevant field is required)
- Commitment to employing standards-based instructional practices
- Ability to scope and sequence student learning in collaboration with other faculty members
- Experience partnering with other educators and/or community partners to create interdisciplinary learning experiences for students
- Understanding of and sensitivity to adolescent challenges
- Commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Excellent verbal and written skills
Applications

Please submit applications to careers@thadenschool.org.

Applications should include a cover letter, resume, and statement of educational philosophy.

The start date must be no later than August 3, 2020.

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.