

Thaden School

Grounds Manager

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 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 exceptionally strong tuition assistance program. The school currently 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. Thaden School now seeks an experienced grounds manager to care for and cultivate the school campus in a manner consistent with our commitment to sustainability.

Responsibilities

Reporting to the Director of Facilities, the Grounds Manager will oversee the management of the naturalistic and prairie-style gardens that surround the school campus to promote plant and animal diversity. With assistance from a groundskeeper and contract labor, the Grounds Manager will cultivate and maintain a diverse composition of ecological and landscape elements such as rain gardens and bioswales, wetlands, constructed prairies, turfgrass and an athletic field, and constructed native plant communities. The responsibilities of the Grounds Manager will include the following:

- Daily management of the campus gardens and grounds utilizing organic and sustainable horticultural practices that encourage positive plant, animal, and soil health, while developing new means and methods as needed.
- Oversight of landscape construction and improvement projects.
- Maintenance of garden beds including, but not limited to, selective weeding, watering, pruning, planting, organic amendments application, and operation of backpack blower while adhering to safety measures during task execution.
- Maintenance of horticultural tools and acquisition of additional resources needed to perform key duties.
- In collaboration with culinary education specialists and the Director of Culinary Services, management of Thaden Schools composting plan and sustainability efforts.
- In collaboration with culinary education specialists, maintenance of the Thaden greenhouse.
- Planning, directing, and assisting with snow and ice removal, including the acquisition of supplies and contract labor to ensure a safe campus during cold weather events.
- Interacting with students, faculty, staff, parents and visitors in a courteous and professional manner.
- Obtaining needed paperwork, such as W-9's and insurance, from contract labor.
- Attending meetings and training sessions as directed.
- Performing these and any additional duties as requested by the Director of Facilities.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in horticulture, ecology, or related field of study is preferred.
- Minimum of ten years' experience in landscape/grounds maintenance with at least five years in a supervisory role.
- Experience in organic gardening practices with certifications preferred.
- Knowledge or strong interest in progressive garden management strategies, native plant communities, and ecology.
- Purchasing and budgeting experience.
- Experience with the operation and repair of irrigation systems.
- Advanced knowledge of principles, materials and methods of grounds maintenance and repair.
- Experience working with and managing contract labor.
- Detail oriented with focus on maintaining the Thaden School grounds in the best possible condition year around.
- Ability to lift, pull, and/or carry up to 50 lbs.
- Ability to work outdoors in various weather conditions, including heat, humidity, windy conditions, cold, snow, and ice
- Ability to endure prolonged periods of standing, walking, bending, kneeling, twisting, and pulling.
- Pre-employment background check is required.

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 May 17, 2021 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.

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, and campus plan as well as recent news releases.