



## Head of Middle School

Named in honor of Louise Thaden, a pioneering aviator from Bentonville, Arkansas, [Thaden School](#) opened in the fall of 2017 with 50 students in Grades 7 and 9. With its well-resourced tuition assistance program, the school has grown steadily, and enrollment is now more than 320 students in Grades 6 to 12. Designed by a world-class team of architects, the school's 30-acre campus in downtown Bentonville has garnered numerous national honors and accolades.

Thaden School now seeks a Head of Middle School to continue the cultivation and innovation of the academic program in grades 6-8, lead the middle school faculty's growth and development as facilitators of student learning, and partner with students and families to shepherd the growth and development of each individual child.

### **Role and Responsibilities**

- Serve on the senior leadership team to establish and guide institutional priorities and initiatives.
- Promote a positive school culture that prioritizes growth, belonging, agency, gratitude, and life-long learning.
- Teach one class and participate in Intensives, a two-week program at the end of the academic year.
- With the Assistant Heads of Middle School, oversee the middle school academic and co-curricular programs and function as the chief articulator of their vision, programming, and expectations.
- Develop and implement policies and practices regarding student discipline and campus safety, maintain accurate records, and communicate with families.
- Supervise middle school faculty, mentoring their growth and development by providing resources and tools to support classroom instruction and curriculum design.
- With the Associate Head of School, plan faculty professional development priorities and programming.
- Plan and lead divisional faculty meetings.
- Lead the recruitment of new faculty for the middle school division.
- Assist the admissions process by reviewing applicant files and serving on the middle school admissions review committee.
- Oversee the development of the school calendar, the schedule, and student and parent communications.
- Oversee budgets and financial planning for middle school programs.

- Develop a data-driven system for program evaluation and engage in external review processes such as accreditation.
- Participate in the life of the school by attending athletic events and other co-curricular activities.
- Additional duties as assigned.

### **Skills, Qualifications, and Attributes**

- 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.

### **Physical Requirements**

- Job frequently requires standing, walking, and handling objects with hands.
- Job occasionally requires reaching, climbing, stooping, kneeling, pushing, pulling, and lifting up to 25 pounds.

### **Wage Classification**

Based on the duties and requirements above, this position will be paid as a salaried exempt employee.

### **Applications**

Please submit your application materials through our online portal for [Thaden School Job Opportunities](#). Applications should include a cover letter and resume. The start date is July 1, 2024. 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 within the independent school sector. All offers of employment are contingent upon successful completion of a criminal background check.

## About the School

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. The school received full accreditation by the Independent School Association of the Central States in January 2023, and Niche.com named Thaden the #1 independent school in the state of Arkansas in both 2022 and 2023.

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 robust Indexed Tuition program supports the creation of a balanced learning community where students of many perspectives, talents, and interests learn and grow stronger together.

Located on a 30-acre campus in downtown Bentonville, the school is a short distance from the town square and a variety of cultural and educational resources including [Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art](#), [The Momentary](#), and [Brightwater Culinary Institute](#). The school engaged a world-class team of architects to design an enduring and innovative campus that sparks curiosity, inspires creativity, and invites reflection. The principal designer, Marlon Blackwell, is the 2020 recipient of the American Institute of Architects' Gold Medal, the Institute's highest honor. The school's first permanent buildings opened in the fall of 2019 and the completed campus has garnered numerous national honors and accolades, including the James D. MacConnell Award for design excellence in education.

The School's [website](#) features additional information regarding its mission, educational programs, and faculty and staff.