Opportunity Statement
Ecological Groundskeeper

Named in honor of Louise Thaden, a pioneering aviator from Bentonville, 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 close to 305 students in Grades 6 to 12 in the 2022-23 academic year. Designed by a world-class team of architects, the School’s 30-acre campus in downtown Bentonville will support up to 525 students in Grades 6 to 12.

Thaden School now seeks an Ecological Groundskeeper to attend to daily maintenance of the naturalistic and prairie-style gardens that comprise the school campus according to sustainable practices that promote plant and animal diversity.

Role and Responsibilities

- Perform all levels of required garden bed maintenance including, but not limited to, selective weeding, watering, pruning, planting, organic amendments application, and operation of backpack blower while adhering to safety measures
- Assist in the maintenance of horticultural tools and equipment
- Perform and support sustainable horticultural practices that encourage plant and soil health.
- Maintain a daily record of work activities
- Perform all levels of required prairie maintenance including, but not limited to, selective weeding, pruning, and operation of string trimmer while adhering to safety measures
- Assist in snow and ice removal
- Interact in a professional and appropriate manner with students, faculty, and staff
- Other duties as assigned

Skills, Qualifications, and Attributes

- Strong interest in native plants, ecology, and sustainable land care practices
- Experience in landscaping or natural areas management preferred
- Degree or training in horticulture, plant science, biology, or environmental science preferred
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal
- Excellent time-management skills and work initiative
- Capacity to endure prolonged periods of standing, walking, bending, kneeling, twisting, and pulling
Physical Requirements

- Ability to lift, pull, and/or carry up to 50 pounds
- Ability to stand and/or sit for extended periods of time
- Ability to work outdoors in various weather conditions, including heat, humidity, windy conditions, cold, snow, and ice

Wage Classification

Based on the duties and requirements above, this position will be paid as an hourly non-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 negotiable. 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.

Compensation 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.

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 walking distance from the town square,
Brightwater Culinary Institute, The Momentary, and a variety of other educational resources. The School also 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 campus master plan was completed in the fall of 2021.

The School’s website features additional information regarding its mission, educational programs, and faculty and staff.