

St. John's School
Houston, Texas
Head of Upper School
Start Date: July 2022
sjs.org

Overview

St. John's School (SJS) is an independent, co-educational K-12 day school in Houston, Texas, that provides students with a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum and a wealth of enrichment opportunities carefully designed to prepare students for lives of leadership, service, and personal fulfillment. St. John's graduates are renowned for their academic, athletic, and artistic accomplishments but learn to be most proud of their hard work and acts of kindness.

Students of all ages and beliefs feel safe to explore the many dimensions of their developing personalities and interests at St. John's. Whether attending chapel, serving the needs of others, or experiencing the environment and cultures outside the classroom, there are always opportunities to sample diverse experiences that bring out individual talents and to share unique experiences together. As such, the entire St. John's community is shaping the next generation of leaders—servant leaders for Houston, for Texas, and for our country.

SJS seeks a new Head of Upper School to assume the role starting in July 2022. Strong candidates will be adept at furthering academic excellence and helping students and faculty find balance by fostering a learning environment that combines challenge with support, work with play, and individual success with the common good. Leading confidently in service to the SJS community, the next Head of Upper School will be conscious of what it takes to prepare a young person to be a leader who serves others. Finally, the next Head of Upper School will have a genuine commitment to practices that honor community and inclusion, further integrating a celebration of diversity into daily life at SJS.

Opportunities and Challenges

The next Head of Upper School will have the opportunity to work with a talented and dynamic student body and faculty, supportive and collaborative senior and Upper School administrative teams, and tremendous institutional resources. The priorities, opportunities, and challenges ahead include:

- Honoring and supporting SJS's commitment to academic excellence and continuing to expand the definition of what excellence and success might look like;
- Ensuring the SJS educational experience remains relevant and supportive of students' futures, supporting and exploring educational innovation and tempering perfectionistic inclinations in the spirit of thoughtful risk taking;
- Further nurturing the wellbeing of the student and adult communities;
- Continuing to work towards the goals articulated in the [Strategic Plan for Community and Inclusion](#);
- Evaluating the Upper School administrative structure to ensure it provides sufficient and clear support for the division;
- Helping to implement the inaugural January Plan in 2023;
- Striving to stay connected and aligned with the Lower and Middle Schools and seeking ways to connect students and faculty across divisions; and



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- Recruiting, retaining, and supporting high-quality faculty.

Desired Qualities and Qualifications

The most competitive candidates will offer most or all of the following qualifications and qualities:

- Capacity to keep pace with a highly intellectual and high achieving community and the EQ to modulate the pace to support and care for others;
- A thorough and demonstrated understanding of and affection for working with Upper School students with great energy, warmth, humor, and commitment to their intellectual and social emotional development;
- Eagerness to engage actively with students and faculty and willingness to prioritize visibility amidst the demands of a busy professional schedule;
- Creative, communicative, student-centered, and collaborative approach to decision making;
- Experience leading and managing adults in a complex organization;
- Classroom teaching experience and a track record of supporting and developing teaching faculty;
- Knowledge of best practices in community and inclusion work and the requisite skillfulness to support student and faculty growth in this area;
- Enthusiasm for building and maintaining connections and community between and among colleagues, divisions, parents, and students;
- Experience recruiting and retaining talented, diverse, and value-aligned faculty;
- The confidence and humility to advocate for new ideas, invite disagreement, and welcome feedback, engaging in challenging conversations with grace; and
- The necessary habits for self care and wellness to handle the demands of the position and to model, underscore, and support healthy practice for others.

St. John's School seeks to attract qualified individuals of diverse backgrounds to its faculty, staff, and student body. Consequently, the School does not discriminate in admissions, educational programs or employment against any individual on the basis of sex, race, color, national or ethnic origin, handicap or disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, or any other category protected by federal, state or local law.

To Apply

Additional information and directions for applying are available at [this link](#).



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