

The Paideia School
Atlanta, GA
Head of School
Start Date: July 2023
Paideiaschool.org

Overview

The Paideia School, an independent Pre-K-12 school located in the Druid Hills neighborhood of Atlanta, Georgia, prioritizes relationships, inquiry, and community. There is a palpable sense of joy on campus where students delight in the exhilaration of discovery and faculty relish the opportunity to intellectually engage with students and with each other. While Paideia promotes rigorous exploration and inquiry, it is not a place that takes itself too seriously. A sense of humor permeates daily life on campus; one of the most endearing qualities of Paideia is how often and easily everyone seems to laugh.

Underlying all that takes place at Paideia between students, faculty, and parents is an abiding sense of trust, which serves as the School's fundamental guidepost and catalyzing force. This is as true in 2022 as it was when the school was founded in 1971.

Opportunities and Challenges

Paideia's next Head of School will join the community at a critical and exciting inflection point. The School is characterized by a diverse community where the life of the mind flourishes and where faculty, staff, and students alike are able to bring their full and authentic selves to school each day. The priorities, opportunities, and challenges ahead include:

- Honoring Paideia's half century of history and tradition, building on the momentum of the school's success during its founder-led era, and capitalizing on the community's readiness as the school prepares for its next chapter.
- Thoughtfully considering how to augment the school's structures with systems that allow for greater equity, efficiency, and predictability, ensuring that the school's human and financial resources are put to their best use in support of the school.
- Recruiting, hiring, retaining, and supporting faculty and staff who fully embrace Paideia's Framework of Values and who reflect the diversity of the student body.
- Furthering the school's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, consistent with the current DEI Strategic Plan.
- Maintaining Paideia's fundamental commitment to teacher autonomy and agency while maintaining a balance of collaborative work at each level.
- Evaluating current financial aid policies and funding with an eye towards providing even more equitable access for a wide range of exceptional applicants.
- Communicating with inspiration and clarity, serving as the "chief storyteller" for the school.
- Strengthening existing community partnerships, establishing new relationships, and building the public presence of the school in order to serve the ongoing growth of faculty and students.
- Serving as the school's cultural leader, honoring the school's unique history and vibrant culture and nurturing deep connections between and among students, faculty, parents, departments, and divisions, finding joy and humor with the community and holding to the school's central belief that the present is equally important as the student's next stage in life.



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Desired Qualities and Qualifications

The ideal candidate(s) will offer most or all of the following qualifications and qualities:

Professional Qualifications

- Deep appreciation and affection for a community that prioritizes the needs of students, the passions and professionalism of teachers, and an abiding belief in the power of an intentional community where adults and children live and learn side by side.
- Personal and professional commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and the requisite skills to support a diverse student body and faculty and to facilitate critical conversations in the design of ever more inclusive culture, curriculum, and programs.
- The ability to articulate vision and strategy and the tactical skills to manage the systems and processes necessary to implement strategy, skillfully moderating change.
- Depth of experience in school operations, strategic planning, and board management.

Leadership Style

- A collaborative leadership style built on approachability, responsiveness, and transparent communication.
- A history of responsive and sensitive change management, moderated by deep respect for an organization's history and traditions.
- The confidence and humility to advocate for new ideas, invite disagreement, and welcome feedback.

Personal Qualities

- Experience as a classroom teacher and a profound appreciation and respect for the art of teaching.
- A fundamental belief in the joy of teaching and learning; a contagious sense of humor; and a spirit of playfulness.
- Alignment with Paideia's Framework of Values and commitment to a life of integrity.
- Exceptional interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate with inspiration and clarity.
- Eagerness to engage actively with students, faculty, and staff and willingness to prioritize visibility amidst the demands of a busy schedule.

To Apply

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

Paideia is an equal opportunity employer and educational institution. The school does not discriminate in employment or in enrollment. In hiring, the school will select the best qualified applicant without regard to race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, handicap, veteran status, or sexual orientation.



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