



THE HARPETH HALL SCHOOL

HARPETH HALL SCHOOL

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

HEAD OF SCHOOL

START DATE: JULY 2019

HARPETHHALL.ORG



**Carney
Sandoe
& ASSOCIATES**

Harpeth Hall

Mission Statement

Harpeth Hall is an independent college preparatory school for young women where each student realizes her highest intellectual ability in the sciences, the humanities, and the arts, and discovers her creative and athletic talents. Harpeth Hall develops responsible citizens who have global perspectives and make meaningful contributions to their communities and the world. With a tradition of excellence and a commitment to life-long learning, Harpeth Hall educates young women to think critically, to lead confidently, and to live honorably.

Values Statement

The Harpeth Hall community—students and faculty—has chosen respect, integrity, individuality, and trust to be its guiding principles. These values reflect reverence for expressing kindness toward and acceptance of others, commitment to diversity, forgiveness, and achieving one's personal best, as well as dedication to the service of others.

OVERVIEW

One of the nation's finest college preparatory schools for girls, the Harpeth Hall School in Nashville, Tennessee, seeks a dynamic and innovative Head of School to lead a community of nearly 700 students in grades 5-12. A pioneer in the field of girls' education with origins in the 1860s, Harpeth Hall offers an exceptional program that combines the best of tradition with forward-thinking, cutting-edge programs, outstanding facilities, supportive community, and a wealth of leadership and service opportunities. The next Head will be joining a community ready to welcome a leader who is prepared to serve the school with unwavering dedication to its mission and to educating, encouraging, and empowering girls for the challenges of the 21st century.

The school's motto, *Mentem Spiritumque Tollamus – Let us lift up the mind and spirit* – aptly describes life at Harpeth Hall. Bright and engaged students, passionate and dedicated faculty and staff members, and involved, supportive parents and alumnae characterize this healthy and vibrant school community. The next Head of School will find a strong, solid school poised for continued growth and success with an unwavering commitment to providing excellent educational and leadership opportunities for girls.

Serving as educational leader of the school, the next Head of School will be an experienced and dynamic educator who can balance a forward-thinking vision with a steadfast commitment to Harpeth Hall's beloved history and traditions. The school recently approved its five-year [2018-2023 Strategic Plan](#), and the new Head will be charged with implementing the school's new aspirational vision that affirms its commitment to leading-edge teaching and learning, a strong college preparatory program, building community and embracing diversity, and long-term financial sustainability. This is an outstanding opportunity for a school leader who is passionate about girls' education and fully embraces the school's mission while maintaining its reputation for excellence.

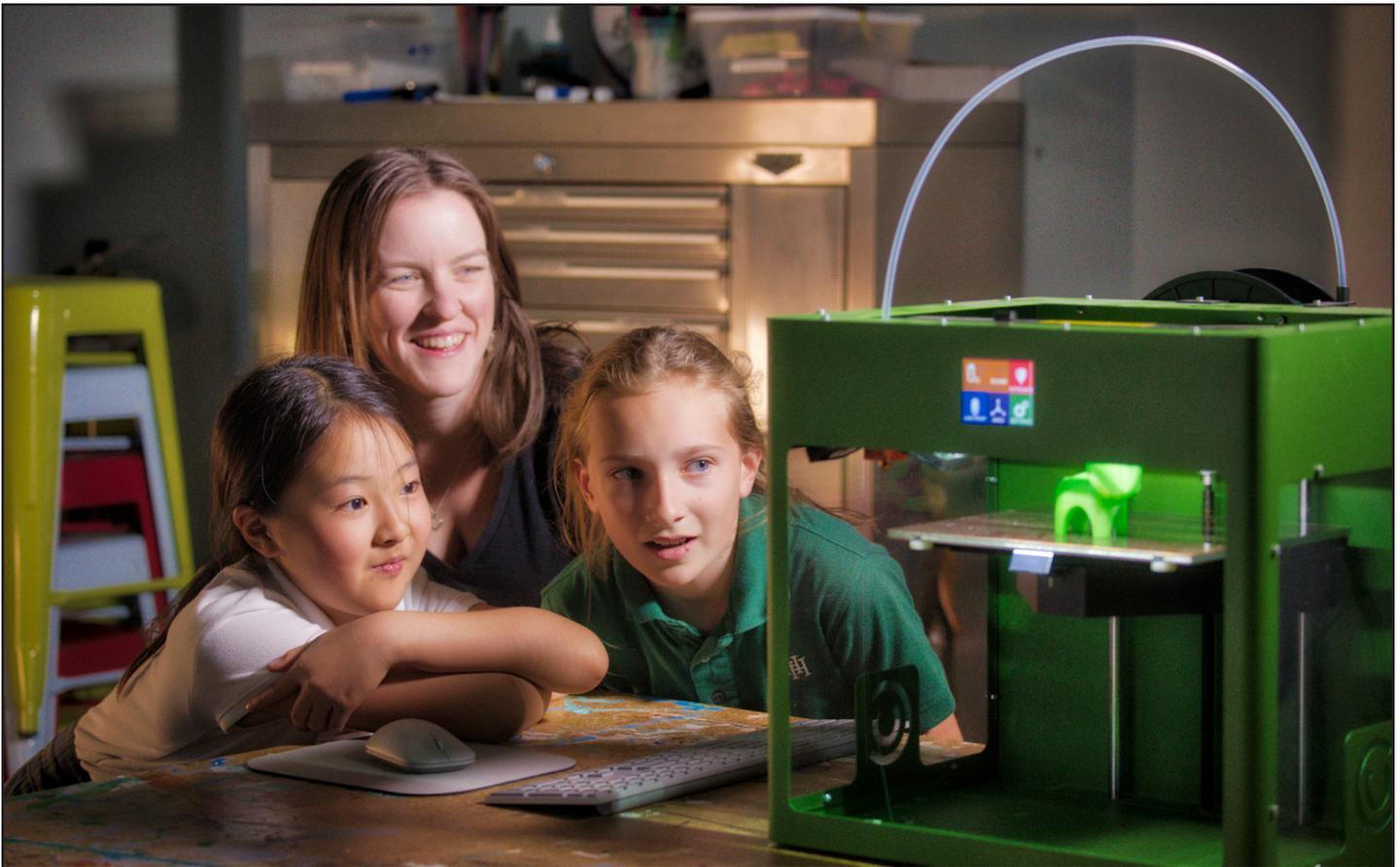


THE SCHOOL

Harpeth Hall traces its roots to Ward Seminary for Young Ladies, founded in Nashville in 1865. Ward Seminary merged with Belmont College to become Ward-Belmont in 1913, and the closing of Ward-Belmont in 1951 engendered the creation of Harpeth Hall. Out of that same spirit and belief in the importance of educating young women, Harpeth Hall continues the legacy of educating young women to think critically, to lead confidently, and to live honorably.

The school educates a student body of nearly 700 who arrive at Harpeth Hall from the greater metropolitan Nashville area and six adjacent counties in Middle Tennessee. A 7:1 student/faculty ratio ensures students have access to the opportunities and resources they need to reach their highest intellectual ability. Each year, Harpeth Hall graduates young women well prepared to attend highly selective colleges and universities. Their intellect, talent, and will to achieve set them apart, and they become successful alumnae who distinguish themselves in virtually every environment. Today, there are over 5,000 alumnae spanning 49 states and 28 countries, many of whom are engaged and connected to the school and credit Harpeth Hall for sparking a passion in learning, providing a solid foundation, and creating life-long friendships.

The faculty is one of Harpeth Hall's greatest strengths and remains at the heart of its excellent educational outcomes. Recruited nationally, this group of 96 is devoted to the mission of providing an education tailored to the needs and gifts of girls by implementing the best pedagogy in the classroom. The faculty's role in the lives of students also extends beyond the classroom, with many faculty members serving as advisors, coaches, club sponsors, and friends. Eighty-one percent hold advanced degrees, and each brings an average of 10 years of teaching experience to the school.



Harpeth Hall is dually accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and is a member of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), the Council for Spiritual and Ethical Education (CSEE), the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), the National Coalition of Girls' Schools (NCGS), the National Association of Principals of Schools for Girls (NAPSG), and the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools (TAIS). The school is also a founding member of the Online School for Girls (now One Schoolhouse).

ACADEMICS

Harpeth Hall offers an expansive experience, and this vibrant environment gives every Harpeth Hall student the space and the freedom to stretch her mind, use her voice and amplify it—early and often. Both self-aware and self-reliant, the school's highly capable girls become confident leaders, armed with the motivation to pursue their bravest ambitions and the skills to achieve them. Harpeth Hall students are engaged learners who excel in collaborative, hands-on project based, interdisciplinary classrooms. The challenging and contemporary curriculum equips students with the skills needed to succeed in a world that is increasingly diverse, global, and technologically advanced.

The foundation of the school's academic program is based upon academic excellence. Students expand their knowledge with the school's progressive curriculum. The faculty designs curriculum that is challenging and engaging for students with a wide variety of talents and interests. To fully prepare them for the challenges of the 21st century, students are exposed to curricular and co-curricular programs that ensure they master essential life-work skills, including collaboration, creativity and communication. Throughout their tenure at Harpeth Hall, students are continually challenged and inspired. Under the mentorship of the faculty, students are encouraged to dream big and reach their fullest potential.



With the guidance of a caring and dedicated faculty, middle school students in grades 5-8 develop the skills needed for success in the classroom. An inspiring and nurturing environment fosters intellectual and personal development. Through a cooperative, interdisciplinary, and technology-based approach to learning, every class challenges and supports students. Through this intentional balance, girls strengthen their self-esteem and confidence and become well equipped to tackle the challenges of upper school.

In Harpeth Hall's upper school, students in grades 9-12 are provided a personalized college-preparatory liberal arts foundation, and graduates are well prepared for the rigor of college and beyond. The program engages students in interdisciplinary, integrated, hands-on and project-based learning that refines written, oral and critical-thinking skills. Students have access to more than 90 courses, including 36 Honors and Advanced Placement offerings. Each student is encouraged to find her voice and pursue her passions, and students have access to a variety of opportunities to discover and follow their interests.

College Placement

The following is a partial list of colleges and universities to which 2014-18 graduates have matriculated

Auburn University
Barnard College
Baylor University
Boston University
Brown University
Bucknell University
Carnegie Mellon University
College of William and Mary
Columbia University
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Denison University
Duke University
Furman University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Hamilton College
Johns Hopkins University
Kenyon College
McGill University (Canada)
Middlebury College
New York University
Northwestern University
Oxford University (England)
Princeton University
Rhode Island School of Design
Rice University
Sarah Lawrence College
Sewanee – The University of the South
Spelman College
Stanford University
Tufts University
University of Chicago
University of Glasgow (Scotland)
University of Michigan
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
University of Pennsylvania
University of Southern California
University of Virginia
Vanderbilt University
Villanova University
Wake Forest University
Washington & Lee
Wesleyan University
Yale University



ARTS AND ATHLETICS

Harpeth Hall's arts and athletic programs are essential to develop the well-rounded student. Studies in the arts promote and develop skills, critical thinking, perceptual awareness, and problem-solving. Students participate in multiple arts courses, including art, music, theatre, and dance. Guided by an exceptional fine arts faculty, many of whom are working artists, the fine arts program provides students with ways to express their creative talents and energies and helps them create, value and support the arts for a lifetime.

Superior coaching, state-of-the-art facilities, and unmatched team spirit have earned Harpeth Hall its winning legacy in its athletic program. The school's scholar-athletes have garnered 57 state championships and include Academic and Athletic All-Americans and Olympians, and an impressive number of students have been recruited to play at the collegiate level. Upper school students can choose from 13 varsity teams. The school recognizes that athletic competition develops leadership, integrity, courage and teamwork to achieve a common goal. These are vital skills for championship teams for college and beyond.



PHYSICAL CAMPUS

Harpeth Hall is situated on an arboretum and beautifully landscaped campus of 44 acres in the Green Hills neighborhood of Nashville. The school's expansive academic and co-curricular facilities are state-of-the-art. Two of the most recent additions are an Athletic and Wellness Center completed in 2013 and the Design Den completed in 2015. The Design Den maker space in the Ann Scott Carell Library is equipped with technology tools including MakerBot 3-D printers, a computer-controlled laser cutter, power tools, programming components and a variety of raw materials. The 60,000-square-foot Athletic and Wellness Center includes two competition gyms, a 3,500-square-foot fitness facility, locker rooms, two multi-purpose classrooms, a concessions kitchen and athletic staff offices. Currently, the school is enhancing the northwest corner of the campus to include additional tennis courts and competition-size playing fields.

Elsewhere on campus, the 20,000-square-foot Ann Scott Carell Library houses 27,000 volume collection and serves as the information and technology hub of the school. The Patton Visual Arts Center is a visually inspiring facility featuring three art studios, a photography lab and darkroom, a videography lab, a media lab and an art history room. The McMurry Center for Arts and Athletics houses a 700-plus seat theatre, two theatre classrooms, a choir room, an orchestra room and two dance studios plus a gymnasium. Outdoor athletic facilities include the Dugan Davis Track and Soccer Complex, tennis courts, softball fields and an artificial turf field for soccer and lacrosse. Adjacent to the campus is Kirkman House, originally the family home of Patricia Kirkman Colton, Class of 1948, which serves as the Head of School's residence.



NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Nashville, the capital of Tennessee, and Metropolitan-Davidson County are superb areas in which to settle, thrive and remain for a lifetime. Historically known as the “Athens of the South,” Nashville is distinguished by excellent educational institutions and classical architecture. The city is home to such distinguished universities and colleges as Vanderbilt University, Fisk University, Tennessee State University, Belmont University, Lipscomb University and Meharry Medical College. Currently, there are 20 colleges and universities in the area.

Located on the Cumberland River, Nashville is a lively, historic city. Known for its strong entrepreneurial spirit, coupled with the music and entertainment industries, Nashville lures a vibrant “creative class” that helps make the region an exciting place to live, work, and do business. Nicknamed “Music City, U.S.A.,” Nashville is the home of the Grand Ole Opry, the Ryman Auditorium, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and many major record labels. The city is also a hub for the health care, insurance, banking and publishing industries.

Those who enjoy the outdoors will find more than 10,000 acres of park land with 99 parks and greenways. For those inspired by the fine arts, there is a performing arts center, a world-renowned symphony, nationally recognized art museums, and a botanical garden. Sports enthusiasts will cheer on the Tennessee Titans, a National Football League team, the Nashville Predators, a National Hockey League team, Nashville Soccer Club, a newly announced Major League Soccer team, and a host of Division I and Division II college sports teams.

The population of Nashville exceeds 600,000, and that of the Metropolitan area is 1.8 million. The median age of residents is 34. In 2015, Nashville was rated No. 5 on Forbes.com’s list of cities Americans are “flocking to;” it rated No. 7 on PricewaterhouseCoopers and Urban Land Institute’s annual “Emerging Trends in Real Estate 2016” report; ranked fourth-best city to be a millennial entrepreneur; and ranked sixth by Inc.com as the best place in the U.S. to start a business.



POSITION OVERVIEW

The next Head of School at Harpeth Hall will join a distinguished group of educators who have led the school in its long-standing tradition of excellence and commitment to the finest education for girls. As the chief executive officer and academic leader, the Head of School will be an educational thought leader knowledgeable in 21st-century innovative practices and committed to lifting up girls to think critically, to lead confidently, and to live honorably.

After the sudden death in February 2018 of its Head of School, Dr. Stephanie Balmer, Harpeth Hall engaged one of its former administrators, Jess Hill, as an Interim HOS for 2018-19. Now, the Board of Trustees is committed to finding an experienced educational administrator to guide the school forward with its recently developed, bold [Strategic Plan](#)—someone with the emotional intelligence and leadership skills to motivate and inspire the community.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

- Appreciation for and engagement in fostering the Harpeth Hall community
- Leading an ambitious new strategic plan and engaging in on-going strategic planning review
- Guiding the school community in gaining the knowledge and skills to successfully engage with one another and an ever-changing world
- Prioritizing competing facilities' needs in advance of future capital campaign
- Partnering with a highly engaged and dedicated board with high expectations
- Promoting Harpeth Hall in a highly competitive independent school market



DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Capable and confident leader ready to guide Harpeth Hall through a transition
- Commitment to embracing Harpeth Hall community and conveying support for and interest in all members of the school community
- Strong written and oral communication skills in both individual and group settings
- Strategic thinker, manager, and executor of strategic planning
- Successful fundraiser who enjoys building relationships and fostering a philanthropic culture and a cohesive community
- Visionary leader capable of building a team and balancing innovation with values and traditions
- Inspirational faculty supporter and recruiter capable of ensuring an exceptional faculty dedicated to the highest standards
- Honest, courageous leader of exemplary character who champions tolerance, inclusivity, and open-mindedness
- Enthusiastic advocate for girls and proponent of girls' education
- Responsible steward of the school's resources with financial and business acumen



To APPLY

Interested and qualified candidates should submit electronically in one email and as separate documents (preferably PDFs) the following materials:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position
- A current resume
- A one-page statement of educational philosophy and practice
- A list of five professional references with name, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate's permission) to:

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