



DWIGHT-ENGLEWOOD SCHOOL

Englewood, New Jersey

HEAD OF SCHOOL
Start Date: July 2023
d-e.org



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES



Mission Statement

As a community of learners, Dwight-Englewood School strives to foster in each student a passion for lifelong learning. We seek excellence, honor integrity, and embrace diversity in order to develop the skills, values, and courage to meet the challenges of a changing world and make it better.

OVERVIEW

Dwight-Englewood School (D-E) is a highly regarded coeducational, independent day school, serving over 1,000 students in preschool through Grade 12. Comprising three divisions — the Lower, Middle, and Upper schools — Dwight-Englewood offers a seamless, student-centered educational experience to a diverse student body representing more than 100 communities in New Jersey and New York, with 30% of its students coming each day from Manhattan, drawn by its beautiful campus and compelling academic and extracurricular programs.

Led by an experienced, talented, and dedicated faculty, D-E's academic and student-life programs provide the highest quality preparation for college and university while fostering independent thinking; problem-solving ability; and the skills, tolerance, and integrity required to thrive in a multifaceted world. Steeped in a tradition of excellence, D-E offers a rich array of compelling programs and unique experiences that spark students' creativity and curiosity.

In September 2021, Dr. Rodney V. De Jarnett announced his plan to retire in June 2023, when he will have served for 17 years as Head of School. His leadership during his tenure has been nothing short of exceptional. In the words of Board of Trustees President Robert Miller, under Dr. De Jarnett's tenure, Dwight-Englewood has evolved into "one of the leading independent schools in the tri-state area, with an elite faculty and administration and an extraordinary student body whose academic and extracurricular achievements are matched only by its diversity."

Dwight-Englewood School seeks a dynamic leader as its next Head of School to start in July 2023. The successful candidate will be a highly experienced educator who has the capacity and vision to build on an impressive level of success and take the School to even greater heights. The Head of School serves as the School's academic leader, responsible for fostering a climate of excellence and ethical growth among students, faculty, and staff. This is an exceptional opportunity to lead one of the top independent schools in the country, one with deep roots, a national reputation, and an unwavering commitment to student success.

Fast Facts

Founded: 1889 (Dwight),
1928 (Englewood),
1973 (Dwight-Englewood)

Total students: 1,015

Students of color: 47%

Zip codes represented: 100

Total faculty: 165

Faculty with advanced degrees:
TK (77% in Upper School)

Student/teacher ratio: 6:1

Financial aid budget: \$5.7 million

Students receiving aid: 20%



THE SCHOOL

Dwight-Englewood was established in 1973, following the merger of three independent schools: the all-girls' Dwight School (1889), Dwight Junior School (1927), and the Englewood School for Boys (1928). Merging in 1973, Dwight-Englewood has become one of the region's top independent day schools.

Today, D-E offers a well-designed, 21st century education across its three divisions to support a highly diverse student body. Through its focus on excellence in curricular and co-curricular programs, the School helps students grow both intellectually and socially. Its core values of respect, honesty, judgment, courage, and community are designed to bring out the best in all students and prepare them well for college and life beyond. The School's deep commitment to the whole child is evident in its heightened focus on building capacity and promoting qualities such as engagement, perseverance, risk-taking, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and organization. At every level, students gain these critical skills while building their knowledge and discovering their passions.

D-E prides itself on its commitment to fostering a welcoming, inclusive community. As a school that values its diversity, we look to our new leader to offer a vision and execution plan for DEIB efforts in our highly complex environment.

Dwight-Englewood is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

Dwight-Englewood graduates attend top colleges and universities in the U.S. and abroad. Graduates from the class of 2021 are enrolled at the following, among others:

American University
American University of Paris
Bates College
Boston University
Brown University
Case Western Reserve University
Colby College
College of Charleston
Columbia University
Cornell University
Dartmouth College
Duke University
Fordham University
George Washington University
Hampton University
Harvard University
Haverford College
Johns Hopkins University
Kenyon College
Loyola Marymount University
New York University
Northeastern University
Oberlin College
Occidental College
Providence College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Syracuse University
Trinity College Dublin
Tufts University
Tulane University
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Pennsylvania
University of Southern California
University of St. Andrews
University of Vermont
Washington University in St. Louis
Yale University



ACADEMICS

Grounded in tradition and defined by innovation, Dwight-Englewood presents a challenging, enriching curriculum that inspires lifelong learners and prepares students well for college and beyond. The School demands high academic performance while emphasizing the development of independent thinking and problem-solving skills.

The Lower School is a collaborative environment with an interdisciplinary curriculum. Academic excellence combines with a unique daily schedule that engages learners as it builds a sense of community. Core classes include literature and language arts, math, science, and social studies, with additional studies in technology, design thinking, library skills, music, art, and physical education.

In Middle School, students engage in a balanced curriculum of academic content and skill development. Cultivating creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking, the Middle School prepares students for a seamless transition to the Upper School. Core studies include English, math, science, history, and modern and classical languages, along with additional courses in the arts, physical education, and ethics. The health and wellness classes and a broad range of elective Discovery Classes round out the student-centered program.



The Upper School offers a structured, integrated curriculum in grades 9 and 10 and an impressive elective program in grades 11 and 12 that provide students the opportunity to design their programs around their interests, talents, and academic passions. In Upper School, graduation requirements include study in English, history, mathematics, science, arts, modern and classical languages, health and wellness, and ethics. Most students complete significant coursework beyond the minimum requirements. Advisories help students set and meet their goals, while the exceptional college counselors guide students through the selection and application process.

Among the signature features of the Upper School curriculum are courses in the interdisciplinary study of human development, integrated math modeling, integrated biology and chemistry, advanced research, robotics, and an award-winning honors study program that infuses research with in-depth field study. The Upper School also offers numerous Advanced Placement and honors courses.

THE ARTS

From preschool through grade 12, the visual and performing arts at Dwight-Englewood are designed to help students develop skills to observe and interpret the world. Through the arts, students build far-reaching cultural literacy, creative confidence, and skills of self-expression.

Lower School students discover the joy and satisfaction of expression through acting, performing, singing, creating, and building, solidifying the foundation for lifelong learning and a passion for the arts. One activity that defines the Lower School experience is the Creating Original Opera program, in which all fifth graders participate.



The Middle School program continues the artistic journey, enlightening students and empowering them to explore creativity through self-awareness and to increase their level and understanding of visual communication. The visual arts program includes a wide range of media. The performing arts program includes band, chorus, orchestra, dance, and theater arts.

The Upper School arts program strives to create a strong sense of discipline in the advanced learner while encouraging creativity and exploration for all. Students can choose from courses in studio art, sculpture, ceramics, and photography/video production; theater courses that explore acting technique, writing for the stage, production, and the technical arts; and music courses in orchestra and chamber ensembles, chorus, stage band, and handbell choir.

ATHLETICS

Athletics are an essential part of Dwight-Englewood's mission, strengthening the community by forging connections among teammates and promoting school spirit. High levels of participation are seen in both the Middle and Upper Schools. The program balances athletic achievement with a commitment to essential life skills. Numerous athletes go on to play at the collegiate level every year. In the Upper School, the program includes more than 20 athletic teams, along with other health and fitness opportunities.

Fall sports include cross country, soccer, tennis, field hockey, volleyball, and Ultimate Frisbee. Winter sports include basketball, skiing, indoor track, and strength and conditioning. In spring, students can participate in baseball, golf, lacrosse, softball, tennis, and track and field.



SCHOOL LIFE

Clubs play a significant role in the development of D-E students, allowing them to explore their passions outside of academics and to gain leadership skills. In Middle School, clubs provide opportunities for students to discover and pursue their particular abilities, talents, and interests. They also encourage students to find their voice, make choices, and assume leadership roles in areas of interest to them. Because clubs are open to all grades within each division, students learn to work with a broad range of classmates.

In Upper School, opportunities expand exponentially, offering students the chance to grow personally and develop critical leadership skills while pursuing areas of interest or, perhaps, curiosity. Upper School students run and produce several major publications (including a foreign-language literary magazine); may choose from 40 clubs (some that have been in existence for 30 years; others that change with student interest); and can participate in myriad artistic, theater, and music opportunities that cater to the students' multiple talents.

As evidence of its belief in the importance of giving to others, the School requires all Upper School students to engage in a minimum of 40 hours of community service.

CAMPUS

Dwight-Englewood School is located on a 45-acre campus just west of the Hudson River in a quiet residential neighborhood in Englewood, New Jersey, ten miles from Midtown Manhattan.

Its impressive campus includes all three divisions. Among its features are the three state-of-the-art classroom buildings, including a new 32,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art Middle School; the Imperatore Library, which holds 35,000-plus volumes; an inspiring brand new 30,000-square-foot Hajjar STEM Center; The Swartley Art Center; the Khubani Performing Arts Center; the Klein Campus, with a 250-seat theater auditorium, music practice rooms, and nine classrooms; and the Modell's Sports Complex with two gymnasiums, a dance/aerobic studio, and weight room. The campus also includes five sports fields and tennis courts.



ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Englewood is a diverse city of 27,000 near the Hudson River in Bergen County, New Jersey. What makes this small city so attractive is the combination of its welcoming community, proximity to New York City, variety of housing options, vibrant downtown, and overall quality of life. The town includes 16 parks, walkable neighborhoods, an excellent town library, high quality schools, upscale eateries, ethnic restaurants, specialty shops, and more. The Bergen Performing Arts Center is also located in town.

Of course, a key attraction to Englewood is all the opportunities and amenities of adjacent New York City. Manhattan contains some of the most famous museums in the world, including the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, the Frick Collection, the Jewish Museum of New York, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), the Guggenheim Museum, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among several others.

The broader city of New York truly offers something for all residents with every type of interest. New York is home to some of the best entertainment venues in the country, including Broadway theaters, music halls, and sports stadiums. Wall Street in Lower Manhattan is the home of the New York Stock Exchange, the largest stock exchange in the world. Additionally, several distinguished colleges and universities dot New York's landscape, including Columbia University, New York University, and several schools of design, among others. With every type of culture represented in its expansive boroughs, New York truly is an American melting pot. As the most populous city in the United States, New York is a global power city with significant influence in nearly every sector, from finance to the arts.



STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL

By any measure, Dwight-Englewood is an extraordinary school with a reputation to match. It has enjoyed outstanding and stable leadership by a visionary and effective head; is experiencing impressive success in recruiting an ever more competitive and talented student body; claims an exceptional and dedicated teaching faculty; and is guided by a committed, able, and engaged Board of Trustees.

Its academic and extracurricular programming are forward looking, impressive and robust and its financial footing is sound. All members of the D-E community are committed to the importance of a diverse, welcoming community, which is described by many at the School as being like an extended family. The bucolic suburban campus boasts state-of-the-art facilities and a location minutes from Manhattan. That 30% of its students are drawn from NYC, home to many of the top independent schools in the nation, is testament to the status that Dwight-Englewood School currently enjoys.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Much has been achieved at Dwight-Englewood but the School has never been inclined to rest on its impressive prior accomplishments. Building on a sound footing and a record of substantial success, important work remains to be done as a new leader takes office:

- Enhance fundraising and development efforts so that the school is not so heavily tuition-dependent for advancing its programmatic and facilities goals and focus on building the school's endowment;
- Create a greater sense of vertical articulation of curriculum among the three divisions and a stronger Pre-K to 12 identity;
- Continue to increase the diversity of its exceptional faculty;
- Further grow and develop the athletic program as a signature feature of the D-E experience;
- Ensure that the voices of all community members—without regard to race, gender, or other social identifiers—are heard and taken into account;
- Advance the fine-tuning of the Campus Master Plan, including the anticipated construction of a beautiful new theater and performing venue;
- Add value to the daily experience of children and adults in this thriving Pre-K to 12th grade community.



DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

The expectations for the next leader of Dwight-Englewood are impressively high. The new Head of School must:

- Lead with the head and the heart, earning trust and inspiring the confidence of the faculty and staff, students, parents, and Board of Trustees, modeling transparency and an unequivocal sense of personal integrity;
- Be an outstanding communicator, equally able to command a large audience and connect meaningfully with individuals and small groups;
- Demonstrate compassion, understanding, and a genuine, personal concern for every member of the D-E community;
- Possess a broad and compelling educational vision for the future without losing sight of the importance of managing the many nuanced complexities of a strong, vibrant school;
- Be a reflective listener and strategic thinker who encourages the commitment and work of others to advance the shared enterprise;
- Possess a strong background in teaching and prior school leadership in positions of increasing responsibility;
- Evidence an unrelenting commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging for the entire school population.



TO LEARN MORE

You may find these video links useful in gaining further insight into Dwight-Englewood's exceptional programs and facilities:

- [Upper School Tour;](#)
- [Middle School Tour;](#)
- [Lower School Tour;](#)
- [Project-Based Learning in the Middle School;](#)
- [Upper School Admissions;](#)
- [Upper School Community.](#)



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 résumé;
- A writing sample (a letter to parents or colleagues, journal article, or some similar piece of professional communication) and responses to several short writing prompts that will be provided to advancing candidates;
- 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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