



ROSS SCHOOL East Hampton, New York

HEAD OF SCHOOL
Start Date: July 1, 2023
ross.org





ROSS SCHOOL

MISSION

Our mission is to change the way education meets the future; to foster interdisciplinary, integrated thinking and innovative leadership; to engage fully in the global community, and to facilitate lifelong learning.

OVERVIEW

Founded in 1991, Ross School, an independent school in East Hampton, New York, offers a cutting-edge, globally focused education for day students in nursery through postgraduate and boarding students in grade 6 through postgraduate. At Ross School, the guiding principle is to educate the whole child for the whole world. By the time they graduate, Ross students possess a complex understanding of themselves and the world and are well prepared to engage in the challenges of an emerging global culture.

Ross School was founded with the explicit goal of offering a truly interdisciplinary program that ignites deep student engagement and integrated thinking. Teachers serve as guides and mentors to help students develop a strong academic base and explore the school's highly regarded Spiral Curriculum that fuses global cultural history with sciences, arts, and the humanities. The program also integrates support for students' emotional and physical wellness. The overall goal at Ross is to help all students develop a deep understanding of human history and themselves, so they are not only well prepared for college but can also apply their knowledge and skills to help shape a better future.

Ross School seeks a new Head of School starting July 1, 2023. The successful candidate will be an experienced educational leader who personifies the School's 21st-century, global, interdisciplinary mission. The Head of School has oversight of all organizational activities and serves as the school's academic leader, fostering a climate of excellence and ethical growth among students, faculty, and staff. This is an exceptional opportunity to lead an impressive independent school with an unwavering commitment to educational excellence and student success.

FAST FACTS

- Founded: 1991
- Total students: 370 (boarding: 150)
- Nationalities represented: 64
- Most represented countries: Brazil, China, Japan, and Mexico
- Total faculty: 89
- Student/teacher ratio: 7:1
- Average class size: 16
- Financial aid budget: \$3.5M
- Students receiving aid: 35%



SCHOOL HISTORY

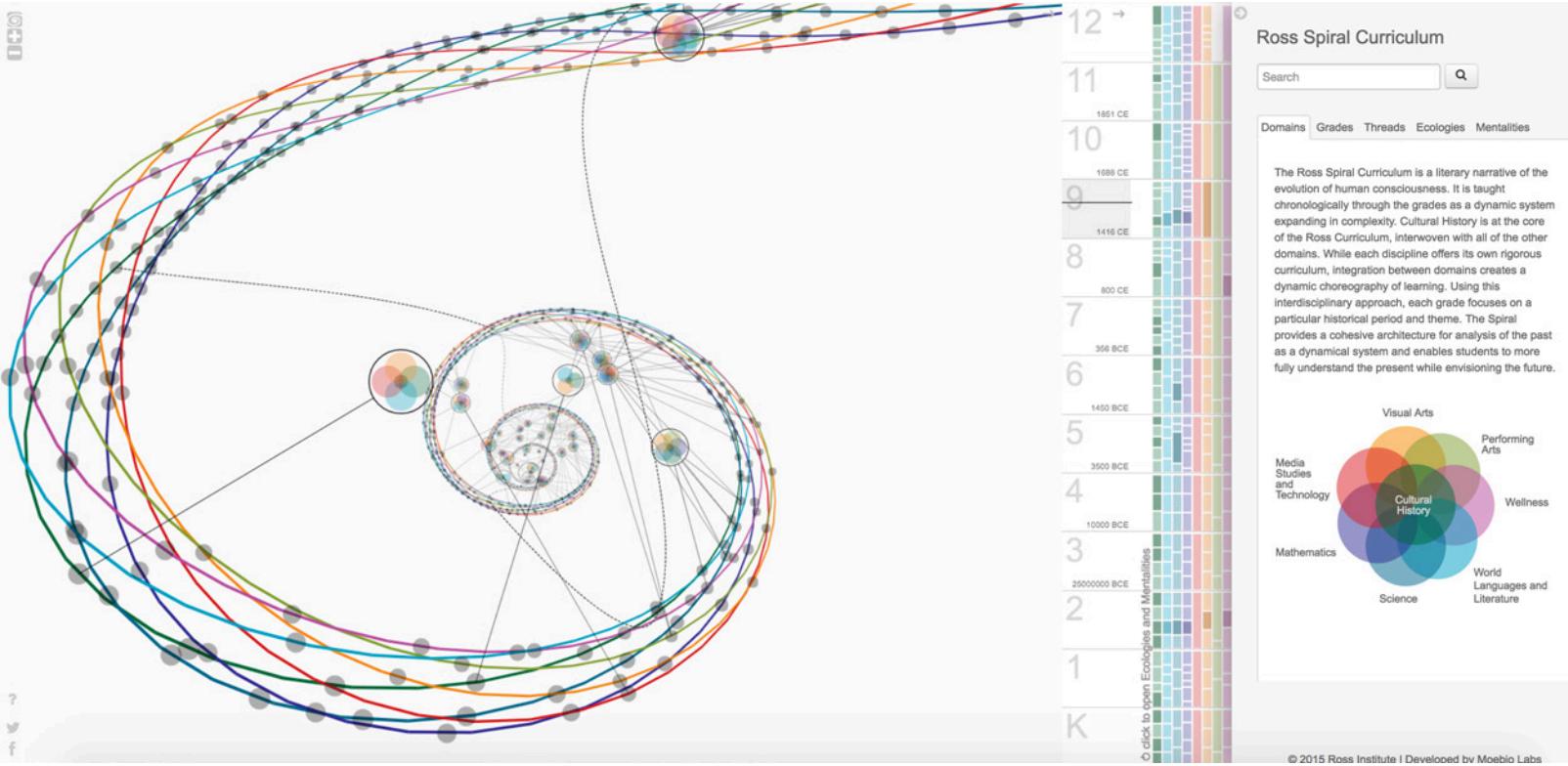
Ross School was founded in 1991 by Courtney Sale Ross, a documentary filmmaker and global philanthropist, and her husband, Steven J. Ross, then co-chairman of TimeWarner, Inc. Ahead of the educational curve, the Rosses developed a vision for a 21st-century education that involves true interdisciplinary studies and emphasizes both STEAM and humanities courses blended with a commitment to helping students develop essential life and learning skills.

With a sketch of the school in mind, Courtney Sale Ross connected with Dr. William Irwin Thompson, poet and historian, and Dr. Ralph Abraham, mathematician and chaos theorist based at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Together, they developed the Ross interdisciplinary Spiral Curriculum model still used today.

Starting as a program for Ross's daughter and a few friends, the school developed quickly into the full range of precollegiate coeducation. By 2002, the school began offering both a day program and an international boarding program. In 2018, the school closed its Lower School campus in Bridgehampton and moved all divisions to the 63-acre campus in East Hampton. However, with the flood of applications for the 2020-21 school year, Ross temporarily reopened the Bridgehampton campus to accommodate more families looking for high-quality in-person education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 1996, Courtney Sale Ross also founded the Ross Institute for Advanced Study and Innovation in Education. The Institute provides training and certification for teachers interested in establishing schools based on the Ross model.

[Watch a video](#) about Ross School's history.

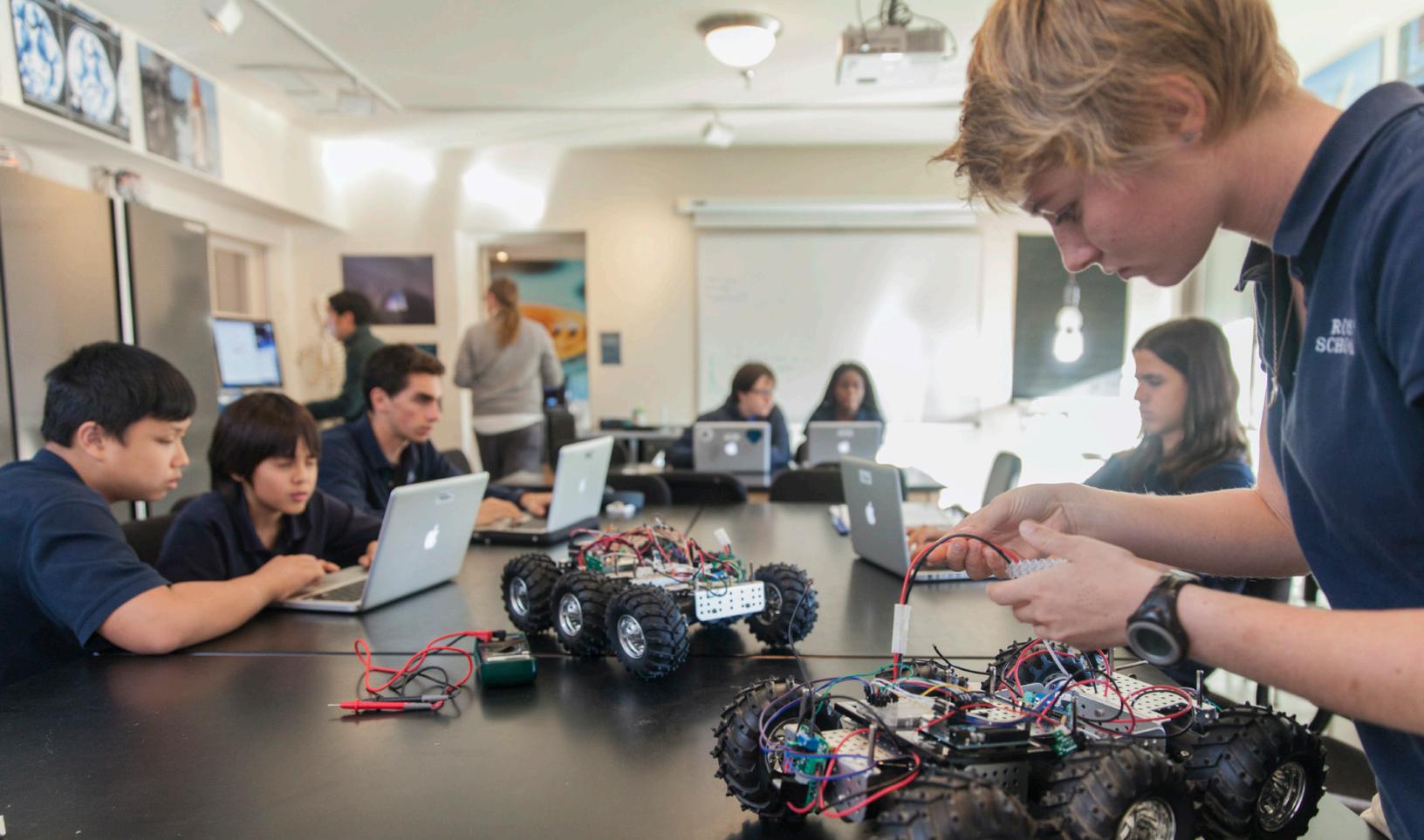


THE SCHOOL AND THE ROSS MODEL

Ross School has been evolving steadily ever since its founding, with the goal of offering the most effective student-centered, globally focused education for children across the entire precollegiate spectrum. Today, with 370 students, the school offers cutting-edge programs in two divisions — Lower and Upper — with either a five-day or seven-day boarding option in grades 6 through postgraduate.

The Ross approach to education is holistic and global in emphasis, and the Ross Model embodies a dedication to mind, body, and spirit. At the core of the Ross Learning System is a unique and comprehensive curriculum that fosters intercultural understanding, transdisciplinary problem solving, collaboration, and independent pursuit of personal interests and passions. Mentors and scholars assist with curriculum development and guide workshops for Ross School faculty. They also meet with students and lead research projects at Ross aimed at improving teaching and learning.

Throughout all grade levels, with increasing sophistication and detail, students engage with the Spiral Curriculum, which encourages interdisciplinary connections, personal engagement, and global understanding ([view an interactive model](#)). Global Cultural History is the core of the Spiral Curriculum, which is constructed as a narrative that charts the evolution of human consciousness and is taught chronologically through the grades.



The Ross ethos informs the foundation of day-to-day interaction at Ross School. Ross teachers and their students are immersed in an environment that is respectful, mindful of others, and oriented to service beyond the campus. Students develop a social-emotional sensibility and a deep understanding of what it means to be responsible local and global citizens.

At the heart of the Ross educational philosophy and practices is the belief that all students can become successful learners. Teaching methods are informed by a variety of tested psychological theories and pedagogical approaches, from Ross Mentor Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences to the latest developments in curriculum design and learning styles.

Drawing on a network of mentors, scholars, and master teachers, Ross School provides professional resources and consulting services in a variety of formats at both new and established schools across the globe. Ross School's annual Summer Academy sets an international standard for excellence in professional development. Hosted on campus each August, Ross faculty and colleagues from other schools address current issues in global education and attend presentations by mentors and invited scholars during a weeklong intensive academy.

As a lab school, Ross School — through the Ross Education Foundation — also offers researchers the opportunity to study its program and curriculum, with the goal of helping all schools evolve into highly engaging 21st-century learning communities.



ACADEMICS

The Ross Lower School is an innovative learning community for children from nursery through grade 4. The faculty focuses on teaching life and academic skills, building a solid knowledge base that will serve students well throughout their educational experience. In the context of the history-based Spiral Curriculum, students explore a rigorous program in science, mathematics, world languages and literature, and the arts. Weekly classes in life skills teach students how to collaborate, resolve conflicts, respect divergent perspectives and opinions, and contribute to their learning community. These skills are tied closely with the school's eight essential values: compassion, cooperation, courage, gratitude, integrity, mindfulness, respect, and responsibility. In addition to the core curriculum, Lower School students participate in a Specials Program that connects them with expert teachers in specialized areas.

In the Upper School — containing both the Middle School (grades 5-8) and High School (grades 9-12 and postgraduate) programs — the learning for global citizenry is taken to a higher level of sophistication and detail. Here the Spiral Curriculum weaves knowledge in all disciplines in an integrated manner, incorporating skills and content into a rich tapestry of knowledge. Ross uses a cultural history lens to examine other disciplines — mathematics, science, world languages and literature, visual arts, performing arts, media and technology, and wellness. Electives are also offered in grades 7-8 based on students' interests. In Upper School, students can choose from more than 100 electives, all with yearlong and single-term options. Independent study is available for students who wish to pursue more in-depth studies under the tutelage of a faculty member. The program also includes the annual Field Academy, a three-week period between the school's winter and spring terms that offers students the opportunity to develop firsthand global experiences through travel or in-depth work on intensive projects and courses of personal interest.



COLLEGE MATRICULATION

Students from the Upper School are accepted into some of the top colleges and universities in the U.S. and abroad. Over the past two years, schools attended by Ross graduates include:

American University	Pennsylvania State University
Babson College	Purdue University
Boston University	Rhode Island School of Design
California Institute of the Arts	Syracuse University
Connecticut College	Tufts University
Cornell University	University of California, Davis
Duke University	University of California, San Diego
Fordham University	University of Pennsylvania
The George Washington University	University of Vermont
The New School	Yale University
New York University	
Northeastern University	

Ross School offers students the opportunity to supplement the Spiral Curriculum with advanced and specialized instruction in areas of their choice. Ross School Tennis Academy provides national and international junior players with a dynamic program combining a global curriculum with the highest level of competitive tennis training.

The Ross STEAM Innovation Certification Program allows advanced students who are passionate about science, math, engineering, media, and technology to pursue a rigorous curricular path under the guidance of mentors.

Students' final year at Ross, senior year, is designed as a capstone course and serves as a transition to institutions of higher learning. With guidance from a faculty member, students complete a self-defined Senior Project, a culminating learning experience in which they pursue an individual passion. The end result is a multidimensional representation of students' learning, their capacity to apply new skills, and their ability to overcome unforeseen challenges.

Ross School also offers a postgraduate program open to all students who have earned a high school diploma and are looking to enhance their study skills and strengthen their academic profile. Ross postgraduate students are considered members of the senior class and follow a modified senior schedule.



THE ARTS AND ATHLETICS

The visual arts program enables students' creativity to emerge and flourish through the production of art. With classes taught by practicing artists, the program offers students opportunities for in-depth study of architecture, drawing, painting, sculpture, design, and digital arts — with an added focus on the arts' connection with other disciplines. The program also links seamlessly with the overall curricular focus on understanding cultural history across time. A standout feature of the School is the remarkable original art and quality reproductions on display throughout the campus.

In the performing arts, students develop an understanding and appreciation of music, theatrical performance, and dance while exploring opportunities to learn and create music and participate in concerts and original stage productions. Students also explore the history of the performing arts and its integration with visual arts, literature, media, and technology.

Interscholastic athletics are integral to Ross School's wellness program. Sports for students in grades 7-8 include basketball, cross-country, football, lacrosse, soccer, tennis, and volleyball. In grades 9-12, students are required to participate in at least one season of an extracurricular team sport, though many choose to participate and develop their athletic skills beyond that requirement. High School sports include soccer, tennis, volleyball, cross-country, football, surfing, basketball, wrestling, cheer, indoor soccer, track, badminton, lacrosse, golf, baseball, and softball.



SCHOOL LIFE

With a focus on eight core values and integrated learning, school life at Ross School is about constant engagement.

Beyond the classroom and athletics, students have ample opportunity to engage with each other and the broader community and participate in extended-day activities. The Ross Wellness program fosters skills, attitudes, and strategies that empower students to make intelligent life choices. In Lower School, daily contemplative practices assist the students in being mindful about their bodies and the world around them. This emphasis on self-awareness and emotional intelligence transfers into Upper School Wellness, where students pursue more in-depth study via electives. Many of the electives essentially serve as student clubs where students can connect with like-minded classmates and further develop their skills and knowledge.

Ross School offers two residential options for students in grades 6-12: full-time and five-day boarding. Students and house parents work together to create a homelike atmosphere in the boarding houses by sharing single-family residences located throughout East Hampton and Sag Harbor. Boarding students have a wide range of activities to choose from on weekends, from local trips to the beach to theater outings in New York City. The popular Ross Café serves as a center for student and community connections. Students may also cook food or order delivery at their boarding houses, and there are frequent backyard barbecues, picnics on the beach, and other culinary festivities.



CAMPUS

On the Ross School campus, buildings and classrooms are intentionally and systematically designed based on research into how students learn and their brains develop. The main campus sits on 63 acres in East Hampton — a coastal town on the East End of Long Island, 15 miles from Montauk and 100 miles from New York City. It is a state-of-the-art campus — offering advanced technology, a remarkable dining area with a view of the treetops, and well-equipped and versatile spaces for performing arts, science, visual arts, media, and sports. The School houses an impressive array of original art, fine reproductions, and artifacts from all over the world. The Ross Café is considered probably the best school dining facility in the area and draws upon the school's vegetable garden, which is used for extensive cultural studies and sustainability practices related to food and gardening.

EAST HAMPTON, NEW YORK

The discovery by artists of East Hampton's picturesque agrarian landscape in the last quarter of the 19th century led to the town's establishment as a vital summer colony. Today, East Hampton, located on the south fork of eastern Long Island, is an idyllic community serving both year-round residents and a large summer community of seasonal residents primarily from the New York metropolitan area.



Strolling along the broad stretches of white sand and colonial homes makes it easy to forget that East Hampton is an extension of New York City's Brooklyn and Queens. The scenery is something out of a tabletop picture book. Main Street is lined with working windmills from the 18th century and towering elm trees. The Town Pond is home to elegant swans and a 300-year-old cemetery. The town offers access to remarkable beaches on the Atlantic Ocean that stretch for miles and thousands of white pines acres in Northwest Woods.

Considered one of the nation's "most beautiful villages," this 16-square-mile colony is best known for its historical preservation and rather significant cultural contribution to the Hamptons. Village life centers around a thriving artistic community, and many entertainers, artists, and writers make their home here. East Hampton also offers plenty of shops, galleries, restaurants, and considerable year-round cultural programming and other attractions.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The new Head of Ross needs to champion the unique aspects of the School and work to evolve the program informed by best practices. This is an excellent opportunity to create a global community and celebrate the school's international diversity, expand the Boarding program, and capitalize on the School's location close to the ocean and New York City. The next head will be a champion for DEI efforts and how these are woven into the curriculum as well as issues connected to climate change and other pressing global matters.



Leading the Ross School offers the opportunity for a transformational educator to take a relatively young, progressive school that has gone through significant changes over the last 30 years and bring stability and a new level of excellence to an organization with virtually unlimited potential. To achieve this, the next Head of School must be prepared to:

- Guide the School in its transition from a founder-funded model to one that relies fully on tuition and revenue generated through fundraising.
- Oversee the reorganization of the School's main campus, including the relocation of the Lower School which is now located elsewhere.
- Expand the potential donor base and be prepared to spend considerable time and energy planning for a campus-wide revitalization program and the fundraising activities needed to support it.
- Build upon the cutting-edge, uniquely structured Ross Learning System and spiral curricular design model created by the founder and update it for the future.
- Help generate and oversee a thoughtful plan for enrollment growth of both boarding and day students.
- Create a more cohesive K-12 identity and identify strategies to strengthen the overall sense of school spirit.
- Cultivate close and meaningful relationships with the parent community and identify ways to utilize parents as positive spokespeople for the Ross School experience.



DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

The Ross School holds high expectations for its next Head of School and is seeking a leader who:

- Possesses an expansive, global vision of progressive education.
- Thinks strategically and reflects a truly entrepreneurial orientation.
- Demonstrates a disposition for action and a relentless desire to add value to the daily experience of students and adults.
- Evidences superior emotional intelligence and an open, collaborative, and transparent style.
- Is highly relational and respects and recognizes the School's prior achievements as well as the value and contributions of all members of the school community.
- Relishes spending time with students and being highly visible in all aspects of the School's daily life.
- Communicates effectively in writing and in both individual and small and large group settings.
- Readily accepts responsibility for becoming the "face" of the School and welcomes the challenge of advancing fundraising efforts and generating support for a significant upcoming capital campaign.



TO APPLY

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the consultant in confidence. Candidates will ultimately need to submit the following materials as separate PDF or Word documents:

- A cover letter expressing interest in this particular position;
- A current résumé;
- A one-page statement of educational or leadership philosophy and practice;
- A writing sample that might consist of a newsletter article, communication to faculty or parents, or some other narrative that shows evidence of both writing skills and leadership beliefs;
- A list of five professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without prior permission) to:

Dr. Bruce L. Dennis

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Carney, Sandoe & Associates

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