

HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH

MANARA SCHOOL

El Gouna, Egypt

manaraschool.org

Start Date: July 2024



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES

CARNEYSANDOE.COM

Mission Statement

To provide exceptionally able, high achieving students and those with potential with an outstanding academic, ethical, and relevant educational experience which will allow them to attend the world's leading colleges and universities, and inspire them to contribute to a future Egypt that is prosperous, equitable, and successful.

Values

Pursue Excellence • Take Responsibility • Act with Integrity
Serve Others and Your Country • Show Respect • Be Resilient

At a Glance



Established
2022



Enrollment
450
when fully enrolled



Total Faculty
65
when fully staffed



Student-faculty ratio
7:1



Financial aid awarded
Substantial



Students receiving
financial aid
All who qualify



Overview

The Founders of Manara School sought to develop a coeducational, boarding school for promising students in grades 8-12, modeled on the leading boarding and day schools in Europe, the Middle East, and the United States. The campus on the Red Sea, 275 miles south of Cairo, is situated in the international community of El Gouna. The goal is to provide outstanding students from around Egypt, regardless of socioeconomic standing, access to the superb educational opportunity that a world-class, coeducational boarding school can give, and to set them on paths of success and accomplishment that will prepare future generations of Egyptian leaders and contributing citizens. The school is a not-for-profit institution, heavily subsidized with non-tuition funding.

Manara School has a diverse faculty who all live on campus, fully immersed in the life of a boarding school. Admission to the school is highly selective, with need-blind financial assistance. The school has provisional accreditation from CCOgnia and will seek permanent accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. While the language of instruction is English, Arabic is a required class. Members of the school community speak English and Arabic interchangeably outside of the classroom depending on the context and the audience. By design, the eighth-grade year serves as a transition and preparation year to equip all entering students with a strong English language foundation and a strong character education for grades 9-12. The curriculum is American with its inspiration coming in part from Phillips Exeter Academy, Cairo American College and their peer schools. Preparation for opening the school began in 2019, and the Founding Head of School, Peter Saliba, moved to El Gouna in early 2021. With the support of the trustees and the local community, progress has been brisk with the school adding a new class each year since the inaugural class in 2022.

Manara School seeks a Head of School whose experience and capabilities will continue to spearhead the developments in all facets of school life. The Head of School will work in the areas of faculty leadership and professional development, student affairs, daily operations, planning and strategy, and programmatic enhancement. S/he will understand how to nurture a boarding school community and culture, to hire, grow and lead excellent teachers, to energize student learning and adolescent development, and to thoughtfully plan growth while also sustaining excellence. An exciting part of the new Head's role will be to finish building out the school's superb campus and facilities.

With an academic program that incorporates aspects of the U.S. and international curriculum, the school offers a range of subjects and topics to prepare students for entrance at leading colleges and universities. Co-curricular programs in music, the arts, athletics, and residential life continue to grow and expand.

Manara School advances that each student is unique and has something to contribute to the school, the community, and to country. They also believe that students learn best when instruction provides them with the opportunity to solve authentic problems as well as to develop mastery whenever possible. That students should experience opportunities to work alone and to reflect on their learning, as well as to work cooperatively and collaboratively with others. That school must be a place to learn that is safe, both physically and emotionally, and where students can thrive not only academically but developmentally in age-appropriate ways.



Every student is provided with all learning materials, including a uniform, textbooks, supplies and a laptop. The school's curriculum employs technology as a tool that is vital to effective teaching and authentic learning in today's world. At the same time, students leave their mobile phones in the dormitory, which has created a school culture of authentic in-person connection and focus.

El Gouna, Egypt

Developed as a resort community approximately a four-hour drive south of Cairo, El Gouna has grown into a year-round international community with many nationalities residing there for both business and personal reasons. A project of Orascom Development, with the location name deriving from the ancient Egyptian words for 'protected,' El Gouna has become a fully integrated, self-sufficient town, adhering to the highest global standards. The city, at the edge of the Red Sea, consists of shoreline and 20 connected islands surrounded by lagoons and canals. El Gouna lies 25 kilometers north of Hurghada and its International Airport (and is only a four-hour flight to Europe), though it also has its own private airport. Known for being Egypt's greenest and most environmentally friendly city, it attracts visitors from around the Middle East and Europe, accommodating them in 18 hotels. Many of the hotels and other notable buildings in the city were designed by noted architects (including Michael Graves) and built in keeping with traditional Egyptian designs.

El Gouna has a fully equipped international hospital able to handle a full range of treatments including dentistry, pediatrics, ophthalmology, general surgery, intensive care, and a decompression chamber (since scuba diving is a popular local pastime). Over 100 restaurants, bars, and eateries make up a refined culinary scene. Cultural events and festivals are also popular occurrences. Residents experience near perfect sunny weather year-round with temperatures ranging between 17 °C/63 °F and 33 °C/91 °F.



Opportunities and Challenges

Manara School anticipates adding to the school size each year with succeeding entry classes until reaching a full enrollment of 450. The Head of School will work with the current head, founder, and Manara administration and faculty, to continue to evolve the school in every dimension: curriculum, program, physical plant, enrollment, community building, parent relations, hiring, and planning and strategy. While the school still retains a “start-up feel,” we are transitioning to a more predictable, organized, and efficient academic enterprise, especially as the school expands and the program and community develop. This set of circumstances and challenge – which comes rarely in one’s career - makes this opportunity compelling.

Qualifications and Personal Attributes

- Proven leadership experience in a U.S. or Commonwealth independent/public school or an international school.
- An entrepreneurial, problem-solving, “can do” spirit.
- Willingness to embrace challenges.
- Strong planning, execution, and delegating skills along with initiative and follow-through.
- Adaptability, persistence, and strong work ethic.
- Tolerance for ambiguity.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Effective recruiting, mentoring, and team-building skills.
- Personal and professional integrity and high ethical standards.
- Boarding school experience (preferred) and a commitment to the well-being of faculty, staff, students, and their families.
- Financial acumen and marketing experience.
- Familiarity with Arabic culture and the Arabic language (also preferred but not required)/cultural competence.

Learn More

Click on the links below to learn more about Manara School.

[School Website](#)

[Student Life](#)

[Academics at Manara](#)

[Portrait of a Graduate](#)



To Apply

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

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
- A current and comprehensive résumé of no more than four pages;
- A one-page statement of educational philosophy and leadership practice;
- A list of five or six professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each (*references will not be contacted without the candidate's permission*) to:

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