

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR SEARCH

MOUNDS PARK ACADEMY

St. Paul, Minnesota

moundsparkacademy.org

Start Date: July 2024

MoundsPark
A C A D E M Y



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES

CARNEYSANDOE.COM

Mission Statement

We teach students to think independently, communicate effectively, and act with respect and integrity in a diverse community that models intellectual ambition, global responsibility, and the joy of learning.

Motto

Dream Big. Do Right.

At a Glance



Established
1982



Middle School Enrollment
167



Faculty in the Middle School
30



Campus size
32 acres



Students of color
39%



Financial aid awarded
\$4.3M



Faculty with advanced degrees
60%

Total students: 575

Total faculty: 78

Student/teacher ratio: 7:1

Students receiving aid: 39%

Endowment: \$6.9 million



Overview

Mounds Park Academy (MPA) is a top-ranked PreK-grade 12 private college preparatory school serving students from 82 different zip codes throughout the greater Twin Cities community (which has been named one of the fifteen best places to live in the U.S. this year). Spanning 32 acres and home to a diverse community of students, faculty, and families, MPA is a vibrant learning community where academic rigor prepares students to stir the human spirit, stand for justice, and shake the world.

MPA offers a wide variety of academic and extracurricular offerings while providing enriched individualized attention through small class sizes and a connected community. Here, faculty and staff embrace every child in a welcoming community built on shared values.

For 2024, Mounds Park seeks a new Middle School Director. The current director, who is in her fifth year, has been appointed Head of School at an independent school in Texas – a role she will assume in the summer of 2024. This gives the MPA community ample time to conduct an international search to find her replacement. There is a strong sense of community at MPA, and within the middle school division in particular. To that end, the school will look to prioritize a leader who values relationships and community deeply, who will find joy in the work, and keep the spirit of MPA's tight-knit middle school community vibrant. Further, the school seeks someone who has expertise in teaching and learning best practices at the middle school grade levels. One of the many successes of MPA's middle school under their current director has stemmed from her academic background and experience on that front. The school embraces its neurodivergent student populations and celebrates diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in ways that are palpable when on campus.



Opportunities and Challenges

The Middle School Director oversees the day-to-day operations of the division (grades 5-8) and is a critical member of the school's leadership team. Reporting to the Head of School, the Middle School Director serves on the Administrative Team, collaborates closely with the Lower School and Upper School Directors, and is supported by a Middle School Assistant Director. The next Middle School Director will have the opportunity to lead and support a dynamic faculty (described as a strong team of hard-working, committed and passionate middle school educators), an engaged student body, and a supportive caregiver community. Looking ahead, the priorities, opportunities, and challenges for the new Middle School Director include:

- Maintaining and advancing academic program excellence and academic success for all students with purpose in a creative, hands-on, whole child, engaging environment that ensures students find joy in learning;
- Serving as instructional leader of the division, supporting teaching teams and curriculum development to further elevate and align the program, with an eye toward PreK-12 scope and sequence;
- Recruiting, hiring, supporting, and retaining a diverse, talented, and mission-aligned faculty;
- Maintaining and advancing high-quality instruction through faculty coaching and leadership;
- Advancing an individualized and developmentally appropriate approach to student learning and community relationships with a personal focus on families and students;
- Leading, supporting, and operationalizing the work of community, diversity, equity, and inclusion within the division;
- Nurturing an even deeper sense of community and collaboration within the Middle School faculty.



Qualifications and Personal Attributes

In seeking a new Middle School Director, Mounds Park Academy desires candidates who possess the following identifying traits:

- An experienced educator who loves working with middle school-age children and their families, who is both joyful and creative, and who believes in MPA's "whole child" approach to education;
- A collaborative and motivational leadership style built on approachability, accountability, and transparency;
- A relational and humble leader who will work well on the school's leadership team, connecting the appropriate dots between the Middle School division and the broader PreK-12 program;
- An advocate for age-appropriate, student-centered teaching and learning who will listen first and draw upon existing expertise in the faculty and seek out opportunities to thoughtfully evolve the school's program;
- Demonstrated skill in building and maintaining connections and community between and among colleagues, divisions, parents, and students;
- Someone who exhibits a genuine, non-performative commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging with experience working with different types of diversity across the personal, family, and communal levels;
- Someone with experience working with and creating support systems for neurodiverse populations;
- The ability to prioritize visibility amidst the demands of a busy professional schedule;
- Someone with experience in recruitment, retention, support, and management of excellence, mission-aligned faculty and staff;
- Exceptional interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate with confidence, inspiration, and clarity across a wide range of audiences including prospective families.

Learn More

Click on the links below to learn more about Mounds Park Academy.

[School Website](#)

[School Values and History](#)

[Equity and Belonging](#)

[Virtual Campus Tours](#)

[Middle School Academics](#)

[About St. Paul, Minnesota](#)



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 résumé;
- A list of five 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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