

# HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH

## PRINCETON FRIENDS SCHOOL

Princeton, New Jersey

[princetonfriendsschool.org](http://princetonfriendsschool.org)

Start Date: July 2025



**Carney  
Sandoe**  
& ASSOCIATES

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# Mission Statement

Drawing on a rich tradition of Quaker values and practices, Princeton Friends School is committed to creating a diverse, vibrant learning community in which young people engage their natural curiosity; discover and express their individual voices and gifts; acquire intellectual, physical, artistic, and life skills; and develop a sense of responsibility for themselves and others. Princeton Friends both prepares students for the world that is and models possibilities for the society that these young people will one day help to create.

## At a Glance



Established  
**1987**



Enrollment  
**85**



Financial aid awarded  
**\$1.3M**



Student-teacher ratio  
**4:1**



Total faculty  
**21**



Faculty with advanced degrees  
**50%**



Campus size  
**10-plus acres**

Faculty of color: 27%  
Students receiving aid: 74%

Endowment: \$4.2M  
Annual operating budget: \$3.2M



## Overview

Founded in 1987 to provide a progressive, Quaker education to the greater Princeton area, Princeton Friends School, spanning “B-School” (pre-K and Kindergarten class) to grade 8, recognizes the Quaker belief of “an inner Light” in each student and understands that learning is best carried out in a community in which all members support and celebrate one another’s growth and progress. Situated on the 10-plus acres where [Princeton Monthly Meeting](#) was established in 1709, today’s Princeton Friends School has long been a leader in progressive education, embracing active, mixed-grade, student-led instruction and student-centered learning since its founding. The natural setting of this beautiful and historic property encourages exceptional outdoor learning where “the woods are the maker space,” gardens are science classrooms, the play structure serves as the outdoor theater, and imagination and play are essential components to learning. It also serves as the host to a thriving and vibrant Princeton Friends Summer Camp.

PFS teachers strive to build genuine excitement for learning, inspiring students to inquire, to explore, and to pursue knowledge, while fostering the healthy academic, social, and emotional development of the students. The Quaker testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship, among others, and the practice of reflection are present throughout the school and in the teaching and learning. One needs only to have a quick conversation with any student to recognize the impact of the School’s progressive approach and Quaker values and practices. A consistent theme in a PFS education is developing children’s voice, which starts from the original poems they read as a 1st grader (and every year after) and culminates in the 8th grade at the Moving On Ceremony (graduation) where every student reads a personal reflection on their time at PFS to an extended school audience. PFS children speak with conviction and confidence, as their PFS experience helps them develop a sense of themselves and their place in the world.

PFS is a dynamic educational community where students, faculty, staff, and parents come together to support and connect with one another. This is a school where parents make brunch for the faculty and host fundraisers in their homes and workplaces, and where the entire school (faculty, students, and parents!) goes camping. The engagement and appreciation for the school community is palpable!

Princeton Friends School seeks a new Head of School, effective July 2025. The ideal candidate will embrace the School’s Quaker and progressive mission and values with authenticity, genuinely love interacting with children, and understand what is required to foster an open, connected and inclusive community. The School desires an inspiring joyful Head who will lead the community in successfully meeting several challenges. As is the case in many schools, Princeton Friends School wants to reconnect a community that was stretched and stressed by the pandemic and leadership changes.



Princeton is a dynamic and vibrant environment for independent schools, but also a competitive one. The next Head of School, in partnership with the administration and School Committee, will need to continue to broaden and market its appeal to families. In addition to helping form such a vision, the next Head of School will need to be attuned to finances and help the school leverage its strengths to inspire philanthropy. This is a wonderful opportunity to join a community with a strong identity and a commitment to continue to get better.

## Opportunities and Challenges

Nature and history are in abundance on the Princeton Friends School campus, where the school's Quaker values and commitment to progressive education come to life. The experience is enhanced by bright and well-appointed classrooms and the rich curriculum that the dedicated teachers engage in with students. PFS places a high value on community and collaboration and seeks an educator who can lead strategically while supporting a program rooted in Quaker and progressive education. Following the intentional and successful 2-year Interim Headship of Craig Sellers, the next Head of Princeton Friends School will join a community that celebrates its history and is excited about the future.

The next Head will join with all of the School's constituencies to:

- Promote a school that is uniquely positioned as progressive and Quaker;
- Affirm and strengthen the community, and within a progressive educational program, continue to bring to life Quaker values which serve as the moral basis for all of its work;
- Communicate the value of a PFS education and differentiate it from its competitors in the highly selective Princeton market;
- Partner with a committed School Committee to ensure strong governance, and serve as a strategic leader who respects Princeton Friends' history while also planning for sustainability and growth of the school in the future;
- Provide a high level of support to a gifted and dedicated faculty and staff who are committed to its progressive principles and Quaker identity and are eager for support and to continue to learn and grow;
- Continue to celebrate the history and traditions that have made the school strong while continuing to look towards the future;



- In consultation with faculty and School Committee, take decisive steps to buttress the finances of the School while exploring ways to continue to invest in its faculty and programs;
- Foster community through authentic engagement with students, faculty and staff, parents, and neighbors, and between PFS and the Princeton Monthly Meeting;
- Be the positive, vigorous voice in the broader community to bring more attention to the quality program the School offers.

## Qualifications and Personal Attributes

The next Head of School at Princeton Friends will be an inspiring, collaborative, mission-driven, and joyful leader who embraces the school's Quaker and progressive identity. The strongest candidates will offer most or all of the following qualifications and qualities:

- A personal and professional commitment to Quaker values, education, and practices that drive the mission of the school; an understanding of progressive education; and a willingness to learn more about Friends and progressive education;
- A warm, positive, and relational leadership style built on approachability, humility, transparency, presence, and responsiveness, and that includes the ability to set boundaries and expectations;
- An eagerness to be a strong presence in the life of the School. This is a school that is proud of the fact that every child is known;
- A strong communicator with an ability to convey important ideas in writing and speak to the various groups in the School with honesty and authenticity;
- A role model for the Quaker testimonies who is knowledgeable about Quaker history and understands the practice of Settling In (Meeting for Worship);
- A commitment to supporting teachers' continuous professional growth;
- A desire to work to distinguish Princeton Friends in a competitive independent school market;
- An ability to generate a strategic vision by assessing components of the program and being decisive about how to implement change;
- The ability to articulate vision, implement strategy, manage systems, and respond to situations as they emerge;
- Personal and professional commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and the requisite skills to support critical conversations in the design of ever more inclusive culture, curriculum, pedagogy, and programs;
- A joyful leader who will embrace and grow with the Princeton Friends School community.

# Learn More

Click on the links below to learn more about Princeton Friends School.

[School Website](#)

[High School Matriculation](#)

[School History](#)

[About Princeton, New Jersey](#)

[Equity, Justice, and Belonging](#)



# 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 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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