



THE SUMMIT COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
Cincinnati, Ohio

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR
Start Date: July 2022
summitcds.org



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES



THE SUMMIT

COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Mission

Our mission is: To challenge every student, faculty and staff member to share fully the gifts that have been given to them by God; To grow in grace and wisdom; To develop spiritually, academically, physically, socially and artistically; and To become leaders of character who value and improve the world they inherit.

OVERVIEW

The Summit Country Day School is an independent, Catholic co-educational school for Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Located on a 24-acre campus, The Summit is comprised of four distinct schools: Montessori (for students 18 months through Kindergarten), Lower, Middle, and Upper.

The School seeks a dynamic leader as its next Middle School Director.

THE SCHOOL

Families from across metropolitan Cincinnati come to The Summit Country Day School for an extraordinary coeducational, independent Catholic experience. The Summit Country Day School was founded in 1890 by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur as a school for girls. The Summit Boys Middle School opened in 1941 and the upper school began admitting boys in 1972. In 1980, the school became an independent, Catholic school when an independent board of trustees assumed operations. Edward Tyrrell was named Head of School the first layperson to lead the school, and retired in 2003 after 33 years of service to The Summit. The Summit continues to endorse the Hallmarks of a Notre Dame Education and maintains a relationship with the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

At a Glance

Founded: 1890

Total students: 1,055

Students in Middle School (Gr. 5-8): 210

Students of color: 30%

Total faculty: 154

Faculty of color: 14%

Faculty with advanced degrees: 78%

Student/teacher ratio: 9:1

Financial aid budget: \$4.9 Million

Students receiving aid: 43%

Endowment: \$50 million



From the Montessori preschool through grade 12, The Summit offers rigorous academics and abundant opportunities for holistic and spiritual growth. Small classroom sizes, coupled with caring teachers and coaches, allows faculty and staff to know, understand, proactively guide, and love every child. The Summit's Centers of Excellence, including both the Homan Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership and Schiff Family Science Research Institute, the athletic department, and the capstone experiences, are some of the ways The Summit provides opportunities for students to develop their passions.

The Summit is accredited by the National Association of Independent Schools, Ohio Association of Independent Schools, Independent Schools Association of the Central States and other agencies.

ACADEMICS

The Summit develops intellectual and cultural competence by using educational best practices that emphasize creative problem solving, character-based leadership, global awareness, and ethics. In a culture of extraordinary care, each child is known, their God-given talents are valued and relationships flourish. The School adheres to the Anti-Bias framework in its curriculum, so students learn that the best decisions are made when many different voices are heard. Montessori, Lower School, and Middle School faculty includes specialists in literacy and math, as well as school counselors who support highly trained classroom teachers.



Leaders of Character

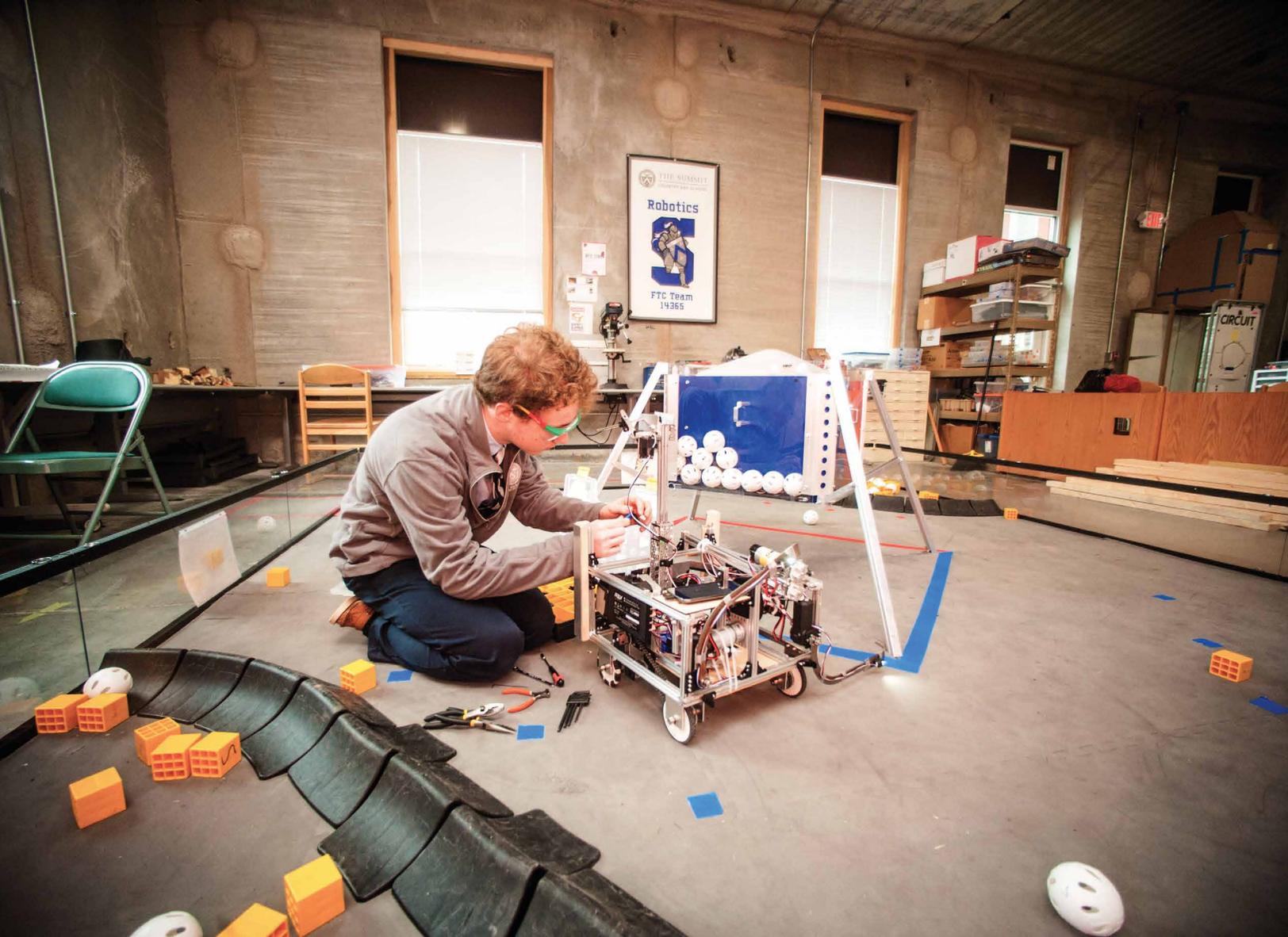
Character education is the heart of the Notre Dame learning community. Children graduate with an internal ethical framework which governs how they live their lives. The Summit's Leaders of Character program is embedded throughout the school and focuses on three behaviors that contribute to personal development: Serves God, Builds Community, Grows Self. During their Summit education, students are guided to cultivate 14 attributes that shape well-rounded individuals who are positioned to succeed in a complex world. These attributes impact a child's overall wellness by addressing their spirituality, their role within a community and their personal growth.

Montessori: 18 Months-Kindergarten

The Summit is one of the few schools in Greater Cincinnati that offer a Montessori experience for toddlers 18 to 36 months. Developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, the time-tested method nurtures each toddler's innate curiosity. The Division offers a peaceful and uncluttered environment where children are free to ask questions, do challenging work, and solve problems. With this support, toddlers will reach important developmental milestones, from vocabulary to motor skills. Signature Early and Advanced Enrichment classes support the academic experience.

Lower School

Children in grades 1 to 4 thrive in an experiential environment designed to leverage their natural curiosity and joy of learning. Empowered problem solvers and collaborators are encouraged to think big, synthesize and test ideas and celebrate the learning process. Academics integrated with movement, fine arts, character-based leadership and faith formation are woven together into a seamless experience of personalized growth.



The Lower School Curriculum includes rich coursework in social studies, sciences, arts, computer science, English, and world languages. Conceptual Math and Five Star Reading Program are signature components of the curriculum. Drawing upon research-based pedagogy, years of successful experience from specially trained faculty, and globally recognized best practices, the Conceptual Math curriculum crosses curricular lines as students explain their reasoning in both writing and persuasive speech. The Five Star Reading Program gives children a head start in reading comprehension by focusing on helping students understand what they are reading. Students work in small groups, focus on individual needs, and develop reading strategies to continuously challenge themselves in their reading proficiency, vocabulary and critical thinking skills daily. They transition from learning to read to reading to learn.

Middle School

Uncovering academic passions, setting one's moral compass, and developing social and leadership skills is the main focus of students in grades 5 to 8. The Harold C. Schott Middle School engages this dynamic window of development with academic personalization, mentoring relationships, and experiential learning to develop students who are confident to embrace and share their gifts to impact the world. The Middle School includes core classes in English, social studies, religion, math, science, with opportunities in world languages, art, and engineering.



Middle Schoolers who are ready can even take high-school level math classes while still in Middle School. To further capitalize on the advantages of early exposure to world languages, all Summit sixth graders study Latin as they continue their work with French and Spanish. Starting in 7th grade, students choose to study French, Spanish, Latin or Mandarin Chinese as a core course, something they continue throughout the balance of their time in the Middle and Upper Schools. The Summit Middle School capstone projects at each grade level focus on the Leaders of Character program. In addition, the Middle School follows a thoughtful advisement program, ensuring each student is known and valued.

Upper School

Upper School students have an abundance of opportunities to excel and lead through rigorous academics, competitive athletics, and extracurriculars. Highly trained faculty challenge students to reach their full potential. The Upper School offers 24 Advanced Placement classes and is home to two Centers for Excellence— the Schiff Family Science Research Institute and Homan Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership— and a number of other signature programs with an emphasis on character-based leadership and creative problem-solving.

The Science Research Institute accepts up to 14 juniors in this highly competitive program. Students in the program spend eight weeks in the summer working with a professional researcher. Then they write up their research in scientific journal style, develop their scientific poster and perfect an oral presentation of their work. Students' posters and presentations have gone on to win prestigious awards. College professors have remarked at how well prepared these institute students are for operating in higher education laboratories.



The Homan Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership is a signature program that launched at The Summit in 2021. The curriculum offers motivated students an advantage as they pursue a passion for business in college and beyond. Students in the program explore the entrepreneurial mindset as they develop an in-depth understanding of business fundamentals, strategies, and case studies.

College Counseling

The Summit College Counseling team works to assist freshman through seniors in identifying their strengths, aspirations, priorities and goals through a process of self-reflection. The college process at The Summit is designed to be an extension of the overall education taking place in the classroom, on the athletic fields, in the art studio and in any venue on-campus where faculty teach Summit students. Seniors leave with a sense of satisfaction for what they have accomplished while at The Summit, along with a healthy dose of enthusiasm for the possibilities in front of them in the years to come. Throughout this comprehensive four-year process, the College Counseling office will work alongside students and their families to create a support network while ultimately preparing them for the college search, application, and decision stages.

College Acceptances

Students from the classes of 2018-2020 were accepted to the following institutions, among others:

American University
Belmont University
Boston College
Boston University
Bowling Green State University
Brown University
Clemson University
Columbia College Chicago
DePaul University
Duke University
Emerson College
Emory University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Howard University
Indiana University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McGill University
New York University
Northwestern University
Ohio University
Princeton University
Purdue University
Stanford University
Syracuse University
The New School
Tufts University
Tulane University
University of California - San Diego, Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Michigan
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania
Vanderbilt University
Washington and Lee University
Washington University in St. Louis
Yale University

[See the full list here.](#)



THE ARTS

The Summit Country Day School offers a range of arts opportunities, from visual arts classes across all grades to a robust music and theater program. Art classes start at the Montessori level, where a fine arts unit culminates the year for the Advanced Enrichment Program. Young artists in Lower and Middle School begin to learn drawing skills, color concepts, basic elements of design, and develop a sense of artistic composition by creating their own art. Students in Upper School can specialize in different artistic mediums by taking courses in ceramics, digital media, drawing and painting, and photography.

The Summit uses the “Orff Approach” to early childhood music education. The Orff Approach is based on the late German composer Carl Orff’s belief in the importance of rhythm and movement. In an Orff classroom, the teacher acts like a conductor, giving cues to an eager orchestra. Children in the group sing, chant, dance, act, move, and play percussion instruments. In Middle School, many students choose to become involved in the band program. On any given day, one can walk through the lower Level of the Middle School and hear everything from Bach to contemporary music scores. Instrumentalists perform in concerts as a full band or in ensembles and as soloists. The band plays at traditional concerts, as well as art shows, Halloween Costume Parades, football games, basketball games, and competitions. Students learn to play their instruments with precision while developing the composure and perseverance needed to perform at high levels. Musicals and theater performances are held in Kyte Theater and occur across all four Divisions.

Individual musical instruction on the violin and piano is also provided during the school day. Lessons are offered to students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 for 40 minutes each week. Piano students in Kindergarten through grade 3 receives their lessons in two parts on two separate days.



ATHLETICS

Physical education is an important component of the educational experience for students across all grades. The Montessori curriculum includes a foundation of basic movement and manipulative skills so the students experience success and feel comfortable during physical activity. As students move through lower and middle school, students continue to work on developing their physical skills and incorporate them into actual game play as students learn to develop proper form at their own pace.

The Summit provides numerous opportunities for Lower, Middle, and Upper School students to engage in team sports. Lower School sports include soccer, football, cheerleading, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, baseball, and track.

The Summit sponsors the following middle school sports: Cross country, field hockey, football, golf, soccer, tennis, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, lacrosse, tennis, and track. Upper school athletic programs include soccer, cheerleading, cross country, field hockey, football, tennis, golf, basketball, bowling, indoor track, swimming & diving, baseball, lacrosse, and volleyball. Both the Middle School and Upper School competes in the Miami Valley Conference and, for some sports, the league offers a postseason tournament.



SCHOOL LIFE

The Summit Country Day School offers programs that extend the academic day to meet the needs of busy parents and enhance the opportunities available for our students. Early Morning Care is offered for students 18 months to grade 4 before school begins. Students in grade 5-12 can enroll in Before School, where students work on homework, read, or study until 8 a.m. when the Middle and Upper Schools open for the day.

After-school opportunities include Homework Start and Extended Day Program. Students in grade 1-8 registered in the Homework Start program are given active assistance with homework and studying with the supervision of a Summit adult after school releases. Program participants gather for a brief period of physical activity, a healthy snack, and then one-hour of group homework assistance and supervision.

The Extended Day program, offered for Montessori through Middle School, gives children an opportunity for exercise and play time either outdoors or inside the gym. A healthy snack is provided. Children then have a quiet story time followed by a period of music and movement. After that, children may participate in a series of activity areas called “World Play” that are age and developmentally appropriate.

The Summit Country Day School is also home to a range of student clubs and organizations for Middle and Upper School students, including Bible Bowl, Book Club, Drama Club, Diversity and Inclusion Team, Dungeons & Dragons, LEGO Robotics Club, and National Honor Society.

CINCINNATI, OHIO

Resting along the banks of the Ohio River, Cincinnati is Ohio’s third largest city with a population of around 300,000 in a greater metropolitan area of 2 million. Known for its street art (there are 100 murals in the downtown area alone), thriving food and beer scenes (with over 40 different breweries), and gorgeous architecture, Cincinnati is a great city to live.



Cincinnati enjoys a diverse mix of unique neighborhoods, each with a culture of its own. From upscale Hyde Park and the unique Clifton Gaslight District, to the incredible views of Mt. Adams and hip culture of Northside, to the vibrant activity at The Banks, trendy vibes of Oakley, and everything in between, each neighborhood in the city has its own personality. Residents enjoy a low cost of living relative to other major cities around the country. The U.S. News & World Report ranked the city as the 10th most affordable city in the entire country for 2019. Despite being a busy city, Cincinnati is also very livable with vibrant green spaces, public areas with dog parks, nature centers with miles of hiking trails, parks with beautiful lakes like Sharon Woods, and hidden gardens like Glenwood Gardens.

The city is home to two major hospital systems that offer employment. Several financial institutions are based in Cincy, two of the larger ones being Western & Southern Financial Group and Fifth Third Bank. In addition, the city is also home to several major retail companies including Macy's, The Kroger Company, and Proctor & Gamble. A noted cultural center, Cincinnati has a symphony orchestra and ballet and theater ensembles. The Cincinnati Opera is the second oldest opera company in the country. The Cincinnati Museum Center includes a children's museum and museums of history and of natural history and science. The Cincinnati Art Museum and Taft Museum of Art have noted collections.

Cincinnati is served by the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, located in Hebron, Kentucky, United States. It serves the Cincinnati tri-state area and offers non-stop passenger service to more than 50 destinations in North America and Europe.

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

The Middle School division at The Summit is excited about the return to a leadership structure that allows for a singular focus on grades 5-8. The next Middle School Director will inherit a vibrant division committed to supporting the educational growth of children ages 10-13 and preparing them for success in high school. The Middle School Director will lead and foster a learning environment that is inclusive and focused on nurturing each student's individual academic and emotional needs. The most promising candidates will be highly visible, relational, collaborative, and energetic educators who are passionate about middle school education.



The successful candidate will:

- Work collaboratively with an all-school administrative committee, advocating for the Middle School while understanding and appreciating the unique role it plays in a PreK-12 school, sharing resources across divisions.
- Partner closely with the directors of the Montessori, Lower, and Upper Divisions, contributing to a true shared leadership structure that is thoughtfully and vertically aligned.
- Evaluate and refine curriculum and pedagogy, including enhancing student-centered instruction within a joyful learning environment.
- Serve as an inspirational voice to lead Summit's change, transition, and innovation efforts as they embark on a new schedule and incorporate new curricular ideas.
- Demonstrate respect for what has been achieved as well as the courage and vision to move beyond the status quo and add value to the daily experience of faculty and students.

THE POSITION

Specific duties will include:

- Hiring and supporting faculty and staff and providing meaningful and growth-oriented faculty evaluation to support an experienced, mission-focused faculty;
- Being a key spokesperson for The Summit's academic program with internal and external constituencies, presenting to current and prospective parents on both the school's programs and general educational theory, speaking at admissions events, and participating in regional, state and national associations and conferences;

- Reinforcing The Summit's Five Pillars of Academic, Spiritual, Social, Physical, and Artistic development in the middle school grades;
- Working with faculty to support the Leaders of Character program development;
- Encouraging and retaining a diverse community of students and faculty, and sustaining an inclusive and welcoming experience for every member of The Summit community;
- Ensuring effective communication between and among Middle School parents, faculty, and students.
- Supporting and cultivating a culture of high standards and accountability for students, faculty, and staff.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Alignment with The Summit's missions, beliefs, and values and the ability to synthesize and articulate them so as to inspire and lead the faculty in implementing them.
- Relishes being with Middle School children, and recognizes the joys, challenges, and opportunities of working with pre-adolescents as they advance from 5th to 8th grade.
- A courageous, inspirational, and collaborative leader who invites and respects the views of others yet is decisive when needed.
- Strong familiarity with research- and evidence-based middle school aged learners; teaching, learning, and technology; cognitive development; and social-emotional learning.
- Demonstrate excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Genuine enthusiasm for being a highly visible member of a community and collaborating with colleagues, divisions, parents, and students.

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:

Burke Zalosh

Search Consultant

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