

HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH

Topeka Collegiate

Topeka, Kansas

topekacollegiate.org

Start Date: July 2026



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES

CARNEYSANDOE.COM

MISSION STATEMENT

To inspire and prepare every student for a successful future through academic excellence, active citizenship, and humanitarian ideals.

AT A GLANCE



Established
1982



Total enrollment
142



Total faculty
16 Fulltime;
4 Part-time



Student-teacher ratio
8:1



Students of color
40%



Financial aid awarded
\$418,600



Faculty with advanced degrees
47%



Campus size
8 acres

Faculty of color: 21%
Students receiving aid: 54%
Endowment: \$1.8M

Annual operating budget: \$1.9 million
Tech ratio: 1:1
Student volunteerism: 69%



OVERVIEW

Since its founding in 1982 as Shawnee Country Day School, then re-named in 1989, Topeka Collegiate has been committed to fostering young minds from age 4 through 8th grade for over 40 years. Topeka Collegiate provides an agile learning environment that helps every student develop confidence, critical thinking skills, a commitment to community service, and a love of learning that will benefit them for life. The school is cultivating the next generation of leaders through character development, instilling a commitment to equity and justice, social engagement, and global citizenship. Topeka Collegiate's students develop competencies not just for their next educational step, but for a life-long love for learning. Graduates are known for their broad and varied interests, deep knowledge base, and versatile skill sets. They are communicators, risk-takers, and critical thinkers.

In the spring of 2025, Topeka Collegiate's Head of School, Dr. Lyn Rantz, informed the Board and school community that 2025-2026 will be her final year. She has had a litany of accomplishments in her 9+ years leading the school, the most notable of which has been the completion of a new academic wing, which houses the middle school and opened at the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year. Lyn will be leaving the school in a great position to build upon her successes, with the opportunity to launch a new strategic planning process as the school approaches the 50-year mark.

Topeka Collegiate is the only independent school in Kansas' capital city, under an hour from both Kansas City and some of the state's largest universities. There is a strong and healthy culture at the school, a warm, familial atmosphere, and a student-centered approach to teaching and learning which is evident. This is an exciting time to be at the school, and the entire community is excited about this new chapter in its evolution.



Opportunities and Challenges

Strong Foundation, Commitment to Mission and Values

Topeka Collegiate enjoys a strong reputation for academic excellence that fosters critical thinking, creativity, and a lifelong love of learning. The school community is deeply aligned with its mission to encourage compassion, curiosity, collaboration, individuality, and an inclusive mindset in its students. Committed teachers and small class sizes help create a strong family environment and sense of community.

This past year, Topeka Collegiate completed and opened a new academic wing of the building. This improvement to the physical plant has already made a significant impact to the school's day-to-day approach to teaching and learning and will continue to enable further enhancements to the academic program.

Opportunities for Growth and Innovation

As the only independent, non-sectarian school in Topeka serving students from PK through 8th grade, Topeka Collegiate has an opportunity to further broadcast its value proposition within the broader community. The school already feels it has a compelling story to tell, so coming up with new and innovative ways to market what it currently offers is a clear opportunity for the new Head of School and the leadership team. Further enhancements to the school's program would also make the school's story even more compelling, and the framework is there to continue to improve and evolve the academic program. The school's current Strategic Plan goes through 2026, so the new Head will likely have an opportunity to oversee a process at the beginning of their tenure to get community insight and feedback in the name of setting a new/revised strategic direction.

As a "one of a kind" school in its market, with the flexibility afforded independent schools, Topeka Collegiate has an opportunity to consider partnerships with local universities, civic organizations, and government offices to enhance experiential learning and community engagement opportunities. These in turn should further underscore Topeka Collegiate's value proposition to students and families and within the broader community.



Qualifications and Personal Attributes

Successful candidates will ideally demonstrate the following qualifications and attributes:

- Leadership experience, preferably in an independent school setting;
- K-8 teaching experience in the course of the candidate's career;
- An advanced degree in education, educational administration, or a related field;
- Proven success in marketing and communication and/or admission and enrollment; someone who is able to tell a school's story compellingly and convincingly;
- Demonstrated success in development of new financial resources and financial stewardship;
- Ability to manage and maximize resources in terms of human capital, finance/budget, and operations;
- Proven success in supporting the professional growth and development of faculty, staff, and administration;
- Ability to listen and connect authentically and effectively and work collaboratively to create alignment and achieve shared goals;
- Eagerness to serve as an active, enthusiastic presence in the life of the school's community and as a role model in demonstrating creativity, curiosity, and an infectious passion for learning;
- A growth mindset, a good sense of humor, and a genuine passion for students and education.

Learn More

Click on the links below to learn more about Topeka Collegiate.

[School Website](#)

[Core Competencies](#)

[Strategic Plan](#)

[Equity and Justice](#)

[About Topeka, Kansas](#)



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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