

LOWER SCHOOL HEAD SEARCH

THE SEVEN HILLS SCHOOL

Cincinnati, Ohio

7hills.org

Start Date: July 2026

THE
SEVEN HILLS
SCHOOL



Carney
Sandoe
& ASSOCIATES

CARNEYSANDOE.COM

Mission Statement

Seven Hills engages hearts and minds, guiding students to cultivate their unique capabilities and preparing each for a meaningful role in a rapidly changing world.

Educational Philosophy

At Seven Hills, our educational philosophy drives everything we do. We believe, of course, in setting students up for a successful college career. But we also want to play a role in preparing them for the rest of their lives. That’s why we intentionally model and teach our values to our students every day.

At a Glance



Established
1974



Lower School
enrollment
311



Faculty in the Lower School
64



Student-faculty ratio
9:1



Students of color
42%



Financial aid awarded
\$5.7M



Faculty with advanced degrees
74%



Campus size
55 acres
across 2 campuses

Total enrollment: 1,010
Zip codes represented: 65
Total faculty: 112 (FTE 106)
Faculty of color: 14%
Average class size: 15
Students receiving aid: 38%

Endowment: \$50, 400,000 (as of 6/30/25)
Annual operating budget: \$37,500,000
Clubs and organizations: 40
Athletic participation: 80%
Hours of community service: 150



Overview

The Seven Hills School is an independent, coeducational school located in Cincinnati, Ohio, enrolling students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Well known for its rigorous academic curriculum, commitment to personal and social-emotional development, and nurturing of creativity, critical thinking, and global awareness, the school was founded in 1906. Seven Hills currently sits on two beautiful campuses: Hillsdale—which houses students pre-k–12, including the Lotspeich Lower School—and Doherty, which serves students from pre-k through 5th grade. Over the course of the next year and a half, the school will be unifying its campuses and lower school programs, building a new state-of-the-art lower school facility on the Hillsdale campus. Seven Hills School seeks a collaborative, compassionate, and visionary educational leader to join in July of 2026 to champion the new Seven Hills Lower School and lead it into a future defined by unity, innovation, and joy.

Seven Hills offers a strong college-preparatory curriculum, with an emphasis on academic excellence and inquiry-based learning. The school provides a wide range of Advanced Placement (AP) and honors courses, along with specialized programs in STEM, humanities, and the arts. Students are encouraged to develop independent thinking and problem-solving skills through active engagement with the material. In addition to academic achievement, Seven Hills places a strong emphasis on the social, emotional, and ethical development of its students. The school fosters a supportive environment where students build confidence, empathy, and leadership skills through advisory programs, community engagement, and character education. Seven Hills emphasizes inclusivity and cultural competency, seeking to build a community where students from diverse backgrounds and identities feel respected and valued.

Lower School Overview

The Seven Hills Lotspeich and Doherty Lower Schools are joyful, student-centered communities where curiosity, creativity, and kindness form the foundation of every child's experience. Currently serving students from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, Lower School at Seven Hills is known for its extraordinary teachers, its deep understanding of child development, and its commitment to fostering a lifelong love of learning. Every child is known, cared for, and celebrated for their unique strengths and interests.

In the Lower School, learning is dynamic and inquiry-driven. Classrooms are filled with hands-on exploration, rich discussion, and authentic opportunities to apply new skills and ideas. Teachers design engaging experiences that nurture intellectual curiosity, problem-solving, and collaboration—helping students build both confidence and independence. The joy of learning is palpable, as students discover not only what they can do, but who they are becoming.



Community is at the heart of the Doherty and Lotspeich Lower School experience. Students, teachers, and families share a close-knit, supportive environment grounded in respect, empathy, and inclusion. Diversity, equity, and belonging are central to the culture, and the school's beautifully eclectic mix of students and families is both welcomed and celebrated. Parents play a vital role as active, thoughtful partners in the educational process, reinforcing the school's warm and wholesome sense of family. Lower School at Seven Hills is a place where children love coming to school each day—a place where laughter, creativity, and discovery thrive, and where the foundations of character, confidence, and academic curiosity are joyfully laid for a lifetime of learning.

Opportunities and Challenges

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an educational leader. The new Head of the Lower School will step into a moment of great promise and transformation at Seven Hills and play a vital role in shaping a shared vision for the future. For the 2026-27 school year, the Lower School Head will oversee Lotspeich, one of the two Lower School divisions, until it unifies with Doherty into one new division in the 2027-28 school year. In 2026-27, the Lotspeich Lower School will be first through fifth grade. In 2027-28 and beyond, the unified Lower School will house kindergarten through fifth grade. The forthcoming state-of-the-art Lower School building on the Hillsdale campus represents an exciting new chapter for Seven Hills as the school unifies into a single, PreK–12 campus. A central focus of this role will be to bring together two proud Lower School communities—building trust, restoring connection, and fostering a sense of belonging for faculty, students, and families. Care and collaboration will be essential as the community navigates this momentous change, particularly around the closing of the Doherty campus and the transition within the Lotspeich faculty. This work will require both sensitivity and bold, imaginative leadership—honoring the school's traditions while inspiring renewed purpose and unity.

In partnership with a dynamic and vibrant pre-k-12 academic leadership team, the new Lower School Head will also help lead efforts to clarify and strengthen the academic program, ensuring coherence in scope and sequence across kindergarten through grade 5, and alignment with the Early Childhood Center and Middle School programs. A focus on professional growth—through enhanced feedback, evaluation, and development systems—will help empower the talented Lower School faculty to continue delivering extraordinary learning experiences while embracing innovation.



Beyond the core curriculum, Specials — including Spanish, Music, Art, Science, Physical Education, Drama, Library, and Guidance — and Youth Athletics play a critical role in our mission to educate and develop the whole child. A successful candidate will be a champion of the full breadth of the student experience, recognizing that learning extends beyond the core curriculum and ensuring that these programs are fully integrated, celebrated, and valued.

As both an instructional leader and community builder, the next Head of Lower School will cultivate strong, trust-based relationships with students, faculty, staff, and parents. They will be a visible, approachable, and inspiring presence, known for listening deeply and communicating with clarity and care. Externally, the new Head will serve as a dynamic ambassador for the Lower School, working closely with admissions to champion and articulate the value of a Seven Hills education to current and prospective families. By also being a presence on the Doherty campus in 2026-27, they will bond with that division's faculty, families, and students in the year before they unify in the new Lower School on the Hillsdale Campus.

Finally, this leader will guide the division through the transition into its new, state-of-the-art facility, ensuring that the space reflects and amplifies the joyful, student-centered culture of the Lower School. They will play a key role in implementing the new strategic plan and translating its goals into meaningful practice within the division. For the Lower School program, those strategic goals include making project-based learning, multi-aged experiences, and outdoor education central to the student experience. The new head will lead the school in creating a unified vision for what an exceptional, modern elementary program can be at Seven Hills.



Qualifications and Personal Attributes

The next Head of the Lower School will be an experienced, empathetic, and forward-thinking educator who brings both heart and vision to their work. Ideal candidates will demonstrate the following qualities and professional competencies:

- An experienced educator and visionary leader with teaching and leadership experience in a Lower School setting, a wide-ranging understanding of child development from K through Grade 5, and a deep appreciation for the opportunities of a multi-division independent school.
- Joyful, approachable, and highly visible throughout the school day—an upbeat presence who delights in the rhythms of school life, engages with students and teachers alike, and models optimism in ways that create a happy and thriving learning community.
- Demonstrates the ability to lead change thoughtfully and intentionally, balancing innovation with respect for tradition.
- A warm, authentic presence who builds trust and connection across all constituencies—students, faculty, staff, and parents to nurture a healthy, joyful school culture.
- Excellent listener and communicator who approaches complex situations with empathy, transparency, and optimism.
- Experience developing and aligning curriculum to ensure coherence, progression, and innovation from early childhood through middle school.
- Committed to supporting and mentoring exceptional teachers through robust professional growth and evaluation systems.
- Strong organizational and administrative skills, with the ability to manage faculty, budgets, and operations effectively.
- A compelling ambassador for the school, adept community engagement and building lasting partnerships with families, alumni, and the broader Cincinnati community.
- A love of children and an infectious enthusiasm for teaching and learning.

Learn More

Click on the links below to learn more about The Seven Hills School.

[School Website](#)

[School Profile](#)

[Why Seven Hills](#)

[About Cincinnati, Ohio](#)

[Signatures of Seven Hills](#)



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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