

HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH

METAIRIE PARK COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Metairie, Louisiana

www.mpcds.com

Start Date: July 2026



STRENGTH OF INTELLECT
STRENGTH OF CHARACTER



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES

CARNEYSANDOE.COM

Mission Statement

Metairie Park Country Day School enriches the lives of talented young people in a dynamic learning environment, building strength of intellect and strength of character within a community that is simultaneously challenging and supportive. Our students learn to be flexible, to be adaptable, and to face the challenges of life with honor, optimism, confidence, creativity, and a sense of humor.

At a Glance



Established
1929



Enrollment
735



Total faculty
104



Student-faculty ratio
7:1



Students of color
27%



Financial aid awarded
\$2,163,000



Faculty with advanced degrees
63%



Campus size
15 acres

Faculty of color: 12
Students receiving aid: 27%
Endowment: \$15M

Annual operating budget: \$20.5M
AP courses: 18
Student-led clubs: 30+



Overview

Established in 1929, Metairie Park Country Day School is a coeducational, non-sectarian independent Early Childhood through Grade 12 school where the care and cultivation of each child comes to life through exciting and innovative approaches to teaching. Founded by families seeking an alternative to the traditional public, private, and parochial options in New Orleans, the School opened in the current administrative building with 56 students in Grades 1–6. Its stated aims were to meet the needs of each child; teach skills necessary for a rapidly changing world; emphasize cooperation over competition; integrate shop, weaving, dance, music, and play into the curriculum; and prepare students for college. Now on its glidepath to its Centennial anniversary, Country Day has grown into an Early Childhood through Grade 12 institution with 735 students and 104 teaching faculty in the Pre-K through Grade 12, 120 early childhood students, and a total faculty and staff of about 200 across all divisions. The founding philosophy remains evident and cherished in today's school culture.

“Country Day,” as it is often called, sits on 15 acres in Metairie, Louisiana, minutes from downtown New Orleans. It is a joyful place, filled with thoughtful, passionate adults dedicated to creating a supportive and challenging community. Open walkways, a large courtyard, and sunlit classrooms encourage the community to move, converse, and gather in welcoming learning spaces. The School is unique in its proximity to a vibrant city while maintaining a serene, open campus. A simple daily practice that helps students appreciate the uniqueness of one another and the strength of their community occurs in the Coleman Family Dining Room, a deeply treasured tradition. Students dine family-style with peers from other grades, rotating tables every six weeks. A designated server ensures younger children are cared for first, and faculty hosts foster conversation and reinforce manners. All share responsibility for resetting the table for the next group.

Country Day's reputation, locally and nationally, reflects its deliberate balance of community with the individual, graduating students who know how to think critically, embody strength of character, and recognize themselves as engaged citizens who have something new and original to offer the world. Many alumni have become innovative leaders in New Orleans and beyond, and the bonds among them are legendary; the School has long served as an extension of home and a safe place for learning, nurturing, and exploring. Graduates leave fully prepared to be effective citizens and leaders, benefiting from a rigorous curriculum enriched by advanced technology that opens the world to its students.



The School now seeks a Head of School who will honor long-standing traditions, encourage ongoing innovation, and sustain the hallmark collegiality across divisions and disciplines. Strong candidates will also identify new ways to nurture the School's vibrant, supportive community and ensure it maintains its role as a bellwether for the broader New Orleans region.

Opportunities and Challenges

The next Head of School at Metairie Park Country Day School will inherit a community of deep affection, long-standing stability, and genuine joy, a school with rigorous academics, meaningful traditions, and a culture where every child is known. The School is poised for continued success and eager for a leader who will honor its founding progressive philosophy and identity while guiding it confidently into its second century. The Centennial offers a powerful moment to articulate Country Day's legacy and vision.

More specifically, the next Head will be challenged to:

- Clarify and elevate the School's identity by persuasively communicating Country Day's whole-child teaching philosophy and leveraging the approaching Centennial to strengthen its story.
- Enhance academic excellence through strengthening and identifying innovative academic programming across all divisions and enhance cross-divisional coherence by strengthening curriculum alignment.
- Advance financial sustainability and philanthropy by leading strategic financial planning, growing enrollment pipelines, strengthening the annual fund and endowment, and broadening donor engagement.
- Increase leadership visibility and relationship-building through consistent presence in classrooms, at events, and across all divisions in a manner that reinforces community trust and connection.
- Lead with timely, confident decision-making by listening well, communicating transparently, acting decisively, and ensuring accountability and follow-through across the school community.



- Partner with a highly engaged board of trustees who care passionately about the school and are excited to support the next Head of School.
- Strengthen organizational capacity and internal alignment by mentoring administrators, reinforcing expectations, improving communication, and addressing structural needs for various roles across the divisions.
- Embrace and understand New Orleans culture by forming authentic relationships, appreciating long-standing social networks, and becoming an active presence in the broader community.

Qualifications and Personal Attributes

The Head of Country Day will be an experienced and successful school leader prepared to manage the day-to-day programs of a sophisticated independent school as well as lead the school forward. They will be an inspirational visionary for the school and the community and also a proven collaborator and team builder. The next Head will be excited to embrace the unique culture of New Orleans, a vibrant city with deep historical roots. More specifically, the next Head will be:

- An experienced leader, with a strong academic background and demonstrated experience inspiring program review and innovation; advanced degree preferred.



- A leader with a strong moral compass and character traits that align with Country Day's values.
- A strong team leader with a capacity to build bridges and consensus, including the ability to respectfully navigate diverse cultural and social situations.
- Able to attract and develop talented personnel, delegate effectively, and empower the teachers, administrators, and others to provide leadership to their respective groups.
- An affinity for strategic thinking and creative problem solving to ensure a sustainable future.
- An individual with strong financial acumen and a willingness to embrace fundraising.
- An outstanding communicator and public speaker who is a confident, but thoughtful, decision maker and who is able to listen and convey both welcomed news and tough decisions.
- A highly visible individual who makes genuine connections with students, parents, teachers, and the larger New Orleans community to enhance the school's image and reputation.
- A warm, approachable presence who delights in being an essential part of the Country Day community and can invite and respect the views of others.
- An educator who demonstrates enjoyment of students and genuine desire to invest and delight in their school activities.

Learn More

Click on the links below to learn more about Metairie Park Country Day School.

[School Website](#)

[College Matriculation](#)

[Community and Belonging](#)

[About Metairie, Louisiana](#)

[Portrait of a Graduate](#)



To Apply

Interested candidates are invited to contact consultants Marguerite Lloyd and Rhonda Durham in confidence and should submit the following materials electronically in **one email** and as **separate** documents (preferably **PDFs**) that are **titled**, beginning with candidate's last, first name and date (Example: Doe, Jane, Resume 6-2-24):

- A cover letter addressed to the Metairie Park Country Day School Search Committee expressing interest in this particular position;
- A current résumé;
- A list of five professional references with name, phone number, and email address of each. (References will not be contacted without the candidate's permission.)

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