



MARET

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Start Date: July 2027

Maret

Washington D.C. | maret.org



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES

MISSION STATEMENT

Maret is a vibrant, K–12 independent school in Washington, DC. We ignite our students' potential; foster their academic, artistic, and athletic talents; and promote their well-being. We develop the mind, nurture curiosity, welcome challenge, embrace joy, and build community that is equitable and inclusive.

Our Core Values

Respect + Integrity, Excellence + Creativity, The Individual + Connectedness, and Joy.

At a Glance



1911
established



650
total enrollment



55%
students of color



119
total faculty



71%
faculty with
advanced degrees



5:1
student-faculty ratio



OVERVIEW

Maret School, an exceptional K–12 independent school located in the beautiful and historic Woodley Park neighborhood of Washington, DC, is celebrated for its joyful culture, academic excellence, and deeply rooted sense of community. Founded in 1911 by three adventurous French sisters who envisioned a school based on the best educational practices Europe and America had to offer, Maret now serves 650 students, inspiring them to explore and stretch themselves every day. Students with different interests, perspectives, and talents thrive at Maret because they are known, supported and challenged by a caring faculty dedicated to their craft. Joy is palpable in this down-to-earth community. Classrooms are suffused with a rare combination of liveliness, warmth, and academic rigor. As one parent powerfully shared, “the culture is truly the unicorn.”

Maret is committed to whole-child development across academics, arts, athletics, and wellness and is known for its ability to balance high expectations with humor and humanity. Equity, inclusion, and belonging are foundational to the school’s practices and aspirations and are pursued in all aspects of school life. In this intentionally small school, the K–12 model is not simply structural; it is cultural, creating a cohesive community in which older students regularly mentor younger ones, faculty collaborate across disciplines and divisions to deliver a robust program, and parents are active partners in support of their children and the community.

The next Head of School will join Maret at a moment of both continuity and opportunity. The school is financially stable, mission-aligned, and staffed by exceptionally talented educators who bring depth of expertise and humility to their work. With more applicants than seats to fill, the admission pool is strong and spots are sought after throughout the Virginia, Maryland, and DC area as Student retention is also high. As Maret seeks to continue to deliver on its ambitious strategic plan (launched in the fall on 2025) and develop the campus master plan, the community is eager for an action-oriented leader who can help translate promising ideas into coordinated, sustained progress. This leader will inherit a dynamic, grounded, and deeply invested school and community. Maret offers the next Head an extraordinary combination of joyful culture, intellectual vibrancy, and the opportunity to guide a community that is deeply committed to its students, mission, and future.



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Maret is a school with a history of success that is moving confidently into the future. It has a strong financial foundation, a supportive and motivated parent, alumni, and faculty community, and 650 dynamic and engaged students. Maret's next leader will be charged with carrying the school forward and building upon this strong foundation. The next Head of School will bring visionary leadership to support strategic initiatives around curricular innovation and mission delivery, an engaging, personable, and authentic demeanor to connect with the community, as well as collaborative skills to engage and empower a talented faculty to fulfill Maret's mission in service to the students' education. In addition to leading the daily operations of the school, the next Head of School will embrace the following:

Vision and Inspiration: Maret has multiple promising frameworks including a recently developed Portrait of a Graduate, a new strategic plan (Advancing with Purpose), deep commitments to inclusion, diversity, and belonging—and seeks a unified vision for the school that can be named by all.

Relationships and Communication: Maret has intentionally cultivated a foundation of self-awareness, humility, kindness, and joy that is distinct from other DC area schools. Relationships are central to Maret and the community welcomes a Head of School with a communications style that is clear, consistent, and rooted in authentic relationship and trust.





Capacity for Courageous Leadership: The new Head must bring both expertise and institutional courage to guide the school through complex issues to cultivate conditions to support long-term progress and foster a community of belonging.

Examination of Effective Structures, Processes, and Decision-Making: The next Head will work to develop and communicate clear responsibilities, accountability, and enhance workflow processes that are mission -aligned and action -oriented to allow Maret to thrive in an ever changing world.

Faculty Culture, and Capacity Building: There is an opportunity for the next Head to create structures that bring adults together and foster collaboration across divisions. Furthering a sense of shared purpose will be essential to retaining, empowering, and celebrating this exceptionally dedicated faculty.

Campus Facilities: With master planning already underway, the next Head will partner with the Board of Trustees to guide long-term campus planning, make critical resource decisions, and steward a deliberate transformation of Maret’s historic Woodley Campus in ways that match Maret’s aspirations and programmatic evolution.



\$6M

financial aid awarded



26%

students receiving aid



\$46M

endowment



\$39.5M

annual operating budget



96%

student retention



8 acre main campus

plus 5 acre athletic complex 3 miles away

QUALIFICATIONS & PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

The successful candidate will be a seasoned education leader with the experience, gravitas, and relational skills to lead at the highest level.



Professional Qualifications

- Demonstrated experience as both a collaborative and decisive leader;
- Exceptional interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate orally and in writing - with inspiration and clarity - to both internal and external audiences;
- The ability to articulate a clear vision, execute effective strategy, and respond deftly to changing circumstances;
- Deep understanding of K-12 education and the credibility to serve as the School's academic leader;
- Demonstrated success aligning divisions, departments, and people (both internal and part of the broader community) around shared strategic goals;
- Documented record of understanding change management and of transforming organizational culture in a sustainable manner, contributing to a welcoming and inclusive community;
- Personal and professional commitment to equity, inclusion, and belonging, and the requisite skillfulness to provide courageous and healing leadership when rifts emerge;
- Experience with recruiting, hiring, supporting, and evaluating a talented and diverse faculty and leadership team;
- Demonstrated ability to engage with governance and represent the school internally and externally.





Leadership Style and Personal Qualities

- An action-oriented leader who actively listens, is principled, and is decisive;
- An authentic and relational leader who brings empathy, self-awareness, and emotional intelligence to complex community dynamics;
- Eagerness to engage actively with students, faculty, parents, and alumni and willingness to prioritize visibility amidst the demands of a busy professional schedule;
- The ability to navigate complexity, in part through effective prioritization, delegation, and management of systems and attention to detail;
- The ability to build trust, navigate complex relationships, and create inclusive environments where all community members can thrive; and
- Flexibility and creativity in navigating an ever changing educational and social landscape in the Nation's capital.

LEARN MORE

- [School Website](#)

- [School History](#)

- [Core Values](#)

- [Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging](#)

- [School Profile](#)

- [About Washington D.C.](#)





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;

Selected candidates may be asked to provide:

- Writing samples specific to this search
- 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)

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DARRYL J. FORD, PH.D.

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The full-time equivalent salary range for this position is \$550,000 - \$625,000. The starting salary is based upon, but not limited to, several factors that include years of experience, education level, and expertise.



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