



HEAD OF ACADEMICS & STUDENT LIFE

Start Date: July 1, 2026

Waterville Valley Academy

Waterville Valley, New Hampshire | wvbbs.org



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES

VISION STATEMENT

WVABBTS will be the premier competitive snow sports academy and club, rooted in a passionately engaged community, fielding the most successful competitors at all levels. By instilling core values and providing exceptional athletic and academic experiences WVABBTS will enable our athletes to reach their full potential throughout their lives.

At a Glance



1972
established



25 full term **14** winter term

High School enrollment



17

Middle School enrollment



12

Post Graduate enrollment



14

AP courses



15

total faculty



4 (Alpine, Freestyle,
Freeski, Snowboard)

Athletic programs



OVERVIEW

WVABBTS is a snow sports academy and club that provides world-class training, competition, and a rigorous college-preparatory education tailored to the needs of the dedicated winter athlete. Through exceptional coaching, committed educators, and cutting-edge training venues, WVABBTS empowers athletes to excel both on and off the slopes. With values of growth, respect, integrity, and teamwork (GRIT), WVABBTS is dedicated to developing well-rounded individuals by maximizing their potential in sports, academics and life in a family-focused community.

Position Overview:

Waterville Valley Academy seeks a strategic, collaborative and community-centered educational leader to serve as its next Head of Academics & Student Life. This senior leadership role sits at the heart of the Academy's mission: ensuring that student-athletes pursue elite snow sport training alongside a rigorous, college-preparatory academic experience. The Head of Academics & Student Life champions a student-first culture where high performance in sport is thoughtfully balanced with intellectual growth, character development, and personal well-being.

As a key partner to the Executive Director & Head of School, this leader will steward academic excellence across full-year, winter-term, and middle school programs, ensuring that Advanced Placement coursework and honors offerings remain a defining strength of Waterville Valley Academy. The Academy offers fourteen Advanced Placement courses across STEM, humanities, and social sciences, and holds a Platinum status on the AP Honor Roll from the College Board.

This leader will also be responsible for contributing to and communicating a clear vision and focused plan that sustains and strengthens student success through academics, wellness, and a healthy community culture.

Will also build strong partnerships with families, foster a safe, inclusive, and supportive school climate, to cultivate a healthy, respectful, and thriving school community.



KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Academic Vision & Leadership:

The Head of Academics & Student Life provides clear, forward-thinking leadership for all academic programming. This includes:

- Upholding high academic standards across all academic disciplines, with particular attention to AP coursework and college-level rigor.
- Collaborating with faculty and members of the senior leadership team to strengthen and align curriculum through grades 6-12.
- Cultivating a robust academic environment and provide guidance and support to faculty in matters related to pedagogy, instruction, and assessment.
- Ensuring that motivated students are both challenged and well-supported as they prepare for selective colleges and universities.
- Leading curriculum planning and academic scheduling for full-year and winter-term students, whose training and competition schedules require flexibility and thoughtful design.
- Overseeing middle school programming with developmentally appropriate expectations and strong communication with faculty and families.
- Supervising budget development and expenditure tracking for curriculum, instructional materials, educational technology, and online learning platforms.
- Recruit, interview, and hire faculty for full term, winter term and middle school.
- Teach 25%-40% of the standard faculty courseload.
- Foreign or domestic travel opportunities 1-2x/year to support student athletes as well as virtual distance learning.

This role requires a leader who believes that excellence in athletics and academics are mutually reinforcing, and who can articulate that vision consistently to students, families, faculty, and trustees.

Winter Term Leadership & Program Coordination:

Winter term is a defining feature of the Academy experience. The Head of Academics provides intentional oversight of winter-term academic planning, and proactive communication with sending schools, ensuring:

- Clear academic expectations and structured communication with families and sending schools.
- Seamless curriculum alignment, grading practices, and documentation to support students' transitions back to their home schools.
- Balanced scheduling that protects academic rigor while honoring the intensity of winter training and competition.
- Student progress, attendance management, and proper assessments.

The role demands both precision and empathy; holding high standards while recognizing the unique demands placed on student-athletes during peak season.

Student Support & Academic Monitoring:

The Head of Academics & Student Life oversees systems that track attendance, academic progress, and student engagement across all levels, including AP courses. Working closely with faculty, coaches, residential staff, and learning support professionals, this leader:

- Identifies students who may benefit from additional academic intervention.
- Designs structured support systems such as tutoring, study halls, and individualized academic plans.
- Ensures winter-term and middle school students receive clear feedback, consistent documentation, and coordinated support.

At its core, this work reflects a commitment to knowing each student well and responding proactively to their evolving needs.

Student Life, Wellness & Character Development:

Academic leadership at Waterville Valley Academy extends beyond the classroom. The Head of Academics & Student Life will collaborate with the residential staff and coaches to cultivate a healthy, inclusive community where students feel known, supported, and challenged. The Director of Residential Life will report directly to the Head of Academics & Student Life.

This includes leadership in:

- Student wellness and safeguarding practices.
- Social-emotional development and resilience-building.
- Creating a positive school culture during the intensity of winter competition.

The successful candidate will embody servant leadership; present, approachable, and deeply invested in the well-being of the whole student.

Faculty Leadership & Community Engagement:

As a senior administrator, the Head of Academics & Student Life recruits, supports, and evaluates academic faculty and learning support personnel. The role fosters a collaborative culture grounded in instructional excellence, professional growth, and shared accountability.

Senior leadership is most effective when visible, relational, and fully engaged in the daily life of the school. The Head of Academics & Student Life will serve as an ever-present leader, approachable, immersed in classrooms, present at student activities, engaged in faculty dialogue, and actively contributing to school events, meetings, and committees.

Clear and compassionate communication with families, particularly those in transitional winter-term enrollments, is essential. The Head of Academics & Student Life serves as an ambassador for the Academy's academic program, regularly reporting progress and outcomes to senior leadership and the board.

Beyond overseeing academic programming and student life, this role calls for a leader who models commitment to the mission by participating broadly and meaningfully across the community. The Head of Academics & Student Life will provide steady guidance and continuity, by being accessible to students, collaborative with faculty, and supportive of families.

QUALIFICATIONS & PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES



- Bachelor's degree required; Master's degree preferred in education, educational leadership, or related field.
- Demonstrated academic leadership experience in an independent school, boarding school, or student-athlete-centered environment.
- Experience overseeing AP programs and working with middle school populations.
- Strong organizational and communication skills; comfort with academic data and student information systems.
- Passion for snow sports
- Sense of humor
- Enthusiasm in contributing to the life of a school community

The ideal candidate is strategic yet relational, rigorous yet flexible, and unwavering in their commitment to academic excellence. They will bring integrity, adaptability, and a collaborative spirit, championing high standards while ensuring every student experiences a well-planned, well-supported, and deeply human educational journey. In addition, the candidate will have a deep appreciation for the outdoors and snow sports.



BENEFITS

- Tuition Assistance
- All Meals
- 403B Plan
- Flex Benefits
- Season ski pass at Waterville Valley (dependents included.)
- Housing assistance may be provided

LEARN MORE

- [School Website](#)

- [History of WVA](#)

- [School Profile](#)

- [About Waterville Valley, New Hampshire](#)





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 three 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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