

פרלמן
PERELMAN
JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

LOWER SCHOOL DIRECTOR – STERN CENTER

Start Date: July 2027

Perelman Jewish Day School

Wynnewood, Pennsylvania | pjds.org

Carney Sandoe & ASSOCIATES

MISSION STATEMENT

Fueled by Jewish values and wisdom, we cultivate character, inspire minds, and nurture souls — uniquely preparing students to build lives of contribution and purpose.

OVERVIEW

Exciting news in the Jewish day school world is the unification of Perelman Jewish Day School (PreK-5) and Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy (Grades 6-12). The schools share a common community day school approach that welcomes the full diversity of Jews from within a 60 mile radius of Philadelphia and have a long history of working together as many students naturally flow from Perelman to Barrack.

As a result of this unification, school leadership is designing a new organizational structure to serve the full PreK-12 system. The larger of Perelman's two campuses (with about 250 students), the Stern Center, seeks a Lower School Director, beginning July of 2027. The director will report to the Assistant Head of School for Lower Schools, who oversees both campuses.

Not only will the Lower School Director - Stern Center be responsible for the day-to-day leadership of this campus, but they will also be a part of the team working collaboratively to chart the path that maximizes the potential of this new 700-student PreK-12 Jewish day school powerhouse!

Important note: *The school intends to open in the Fall of 2027 with a new name for the entire system, new branding and messaging. As of this writing, those exciting aspects are still in development, so for the purposes of this Position Description, we will continue to use the Perelman name.*





STRENGTHS OF THE SCHOOL

The new Lower School Director - Stern Center will find many strengths of the school including:

- The entire team at the Stern Center is capable and experienced. The operations of the Stern Center are described as “a well-oiled machine.”
- The school is known for excellent academics in both secular and Judaic subjects. The Hebrew language program is seen as particularly strong.
- A school with a rich history and legacy in the Philadelphia Jewish community that continues to evolve its approach to Jewish education.
- Students learn about their Judaism and develop the pride in their Jewish identity that comes from learning about and celebrating their heritage, as well as being immersed in a community that embodies the joys of Judaism, love of Israel, and resilience that is necessary in today’s challenging times.
- The Stern Center is housed in a building rich in architectural heritage, and the distinctive facilities are both beautiful and continually adapted to meet the programmatic needs of the school.
- The conversion rate from PreK into Kindergarten is about 85% and from Kindergarten into first grade is about 75%....both substantially higher than is typical for both secular and Jewish schools. This continuity is testimony to the satisfaction of parents, even when faced with the alternative of free public schools.
- The school has excellent resources for students who learn differently, anecdotally more than is typical in Jewish schools.
- The sense of community within the school benefits from a large, supportive, and engaged parent community.
- For someone relocating to the Eastern Seaboard, the greater Philadelphia area features all of the attractions and cultural assets of the largest cities with a lower overall cost of living.



OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The biggest opportunity is to be a part of the team that envisions and creates the ideal Jewish community school. That team will envision the values, the beliefs, the culture and the blend of Jewish and secular studies. The new Lower School Director of the Stern Center will be right in the middle of how those fundamental tenets play out in everyday life in a PreK through fifth grade campus of 250 students…one that looks to the future within a PreK-12 system. In addition, key opportunities include:



- As in many schools, Perelman's Stern Campus has stiff competition from excellent public and secular private schools. The program and the entire student and family experience must be exemplary and compelling, known throughout the community for excellence as a warm, welcoming, and top-quality independent school.

- The leadership of the new unified school is eager to inject fresh ideas and perspectives into the well-established legacy schools. Schools as successful and well-established and led largely by people who have grown upward from within can benefit from fresh perspectives, new ideas and leadership that always is asking "Why not?"

- Diversity is both a strength and a challenge. The school embraces the full range of diversity: types of Jewish observance, socio-economic, and national and cultural backgrounds. It is enriched by those varied perspectives. At the same time, it is fundamental that all those different experiences and backgrounds be welded together in a single, united, welcoming-to-all school with programmatic elements for each child.

- As in all schools, the Stern Center has neurodiverse learners, and the School is committed to providing for their needs while being clear whom the school is able to serve.

- Because it is assumed that Lower School students will matriculate to the Middle School at Barrack, there is a necessity of curricular and programming coordination so that the student experience flows naturally and seamlessly from the Lower School to the Middle school.

- An updated organizational structure, including reporting to the Assistant Head of School for Lower Schools, will be a new model in the school, providing greater focus and consistent support to faculty and staff.

QUALIFICATIONS AND PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES



The Director of the Stern Center will have full responsibility for the daily operation of that facility. Included in those responsibilities and therefore areas where prior experience is desirable are:

- Supervising and supporting about 45 teachers. Responsibility for hiring, evaluating, firing, etc. for faculty, in conjunction with the Assistant Head for Lower Schools, and the Head of School. Prior experience supervising others is a must.
- Engaging meaningfully with parents on a regular basis as well as being responsive to parental concerns when they arise.
- Orchestrating and managing daily schedules.
- Oversight and understanding of extra-curricular and club program, which are managed by an afterschool program coordinator.
- In conjunction with the Assistant Head for Lower Schools, working on and implementing curriculum and all student facing programs including setting high expectations and continuing the reputation for excellence that Perelman enjoys.
- Addressing students' behavioral, social-emotional, and academic needs in partnership with the educational leadership team.
- Being a visible, engaged, competent, cogent, inspiring spokesperson for the School to prospective parents and others. A charismatic speaker able to make a compelling case for the value and joy of a Jewish education.
- An active member of the admissions team.
- Recognizing that the new unified school will not be a finished product on day one, it will be necessary to have high EQ and excellent team management skills to help everyone adjust to change, new realities, and lead them in embracing change for the unique opportunity it is to create something brand new and exciting.
- Having a role--along with other middle-managers--in helping shape the future of the new unified school.

LEARN MORE

- School Website
- History, Mission, Values, and Inclusivity
- Jewish Values and Wisdom
- About Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

PREK-12 JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

פרלמן
PERELMAN JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
PreK-5 pjds.org

JACK M. BARRACK HEBREW ACADEMY
Love where you learn
6-12 jbha.org

LAUNCHING FALL 2027



TO APPLY

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence. Applicants are asked to submit the following materials as separate PDF documents:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in the particular position;
- A current résumé;
- A statement of experience with early childhood and elementary school pedagogy, child development and school operations, as well as any experience in a Jewish school;
- 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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