

# Spartanburg

DAY SCHOOL

## Head of School Search

July 1, 2023

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Spartanburg Day School  
1701 Skylyn Drive  
Spartanburg, SC 29307  
[www.spartanburgdayschool.org](http://www.spartanburgdayschool.org)



The  
Education  
Group

# Mission

To provide a superior educational experience, in a community of trust, that prepares students for a life well lived.



## Core Values

Excellence  
Individuality  
Leadership  
Curiosity  
Passion





# The Position

Spartanburg Day School (“The Day School” or “SDS”) seeks a dedicated, thoughtful leader who will embody and promote the school's mission and values. The incoming Head of School will be well positioned to build upon the growth and success The Day School has experienced over the past decade. With record enrollment and endowment growth, facility upgrades, and a balanced budget, the Head of School will champion academics, athletics, and the arts. The Head will also attract and retain individuals to join the talented, creative, and committed faculty.

Responsibilities begin **July 1, 2023.**



Spartanburg Day School is a nationally accredited, nonsectarian, independent day school for learners in grades 2K through 12. Located in Spartanburg, South Carolina, SDS opened its doors in 1957 as a coeducational, college-preparatory school on the grounds of the Drayton Community Center of Drayton Mills. In 1964, the school relocated to its impressive 43-acre campus on Skylyn Drive. The Day School has proudly built upon its mission to provide a superior educational experience, in a community of trust, that prepares students for a life well lived.

The Day School is comprised of a Lower School (2K-4th), a Middle School (5th-8th), and an Upper School (9th-12th) and has a total enrollment of 535 students. SDS's academic program is unparalleled with 100% college placement for all graduates. In fact, the Day School averages in the top 20% and 1% nationally and in South Carolina, respectively, for the 2022 Niche rankings for Best Private K-12, Best College Prep and Best Private High Schools. The Day School also has the distinction of being the first of five South Carolina schools to be awarded a chapter of the Cum Laude Society.

The Day School motivates its students to become meaningful contributors to society and places strong emphasis on excellence, individuality, leadership, curiosity, and a passion for learning. The SDS honor code is an essential social contract that contributes to character development and a strong sense of community throughout the school.



Campus additions and renovations have yielded attractive buildings and grounds, which enhance academic, administrative and extracurricular programs. Since the completion of the Mildred Harrison Dent Fine Arts Center (1999), The Day School has notably championed green methods and sustainability. As a result, the Webster Athletic Center complex (2010), the Presnell Upper School (2011), and the upgrade to the Milliken Center for Learning (2012) have all been awarded LEED Gold certification (Leadership Engineering and Environmental Design) for their environmentally responsible construction.



## DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Spartanburg Day School is committed to being purposeful in cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community where all individuals are accepted, respected, and valued. SDS's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion ("DEI") steering committee is composed of students, faculty, parents, division heads, athletic personnel, trustees, and alumni, and its mission is to accept, educate, and empower a diverse community. Furthermore, the DEI vision is to be a community where everyone is embraced. To further this vision, SDS offers a variety of clubs and programs for Middle and Upper School students. DEI efforts are building and 31% of new students in 2021-2022 are students of color.



## STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2019, Spartanburg Day School embarked upon a new three-year strategic plan to take a fresh look at SDS's future. The Steering Committee identified four focus areas with a goal of strengthening core attributes for future generations of students. These areas are Elevate Learning and Teaching Excellence, Support Faculty Quality and Engagement, Strengthen Culture and Community, and Achieve Financial Stability. The Day School is in an extremely strong position having experienced a surge in enrollment in recent years as well as a dramatic increase in its endowment which will reach \$40 million when pledges are fully paid.



*Spartanburg Day School inspires students to stretch their minds and find joy in educational exploration. The Day School cultivates students' true desire to learn through thoughtful discovery led by exceptional teachers who nurture innately inquisitive minds. A superior program of study equips intellectual thinkers with a profound depth of knowledge that empowers them in life.*

## **FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION**

Spartanburg Day School's faculty and administration are both impressive in their field of endeavor and dedicated to their jobs. Seventy-four percent of the teachers have advanced degrees, and SDS enjoys a 12:1 student teacher ratio, with an average class size of 12 students. Across all grade levels, teachers hold students to high expectations and the students willingly accept and rise to the challenge. The Griffin coaches and players have earned numerous honors in the SCISA 2A Region 2 group including winning 15 state championships in the last five years.

*"Within this tight-knit community, teachers and students have close relationships, which naturally leads to mentorship and a role model connection. This type of setting encourages our impassioned teachers to engage with the students and instill a love of learning."*

*- The Langley Family*

Academics are the foundational cornerstone of Spartanburg Day School. The Lower School's academic program is challenging and developmentally-appropriate, and it incorporates the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP). PYP is an inquiry-based, transdisciplinary framework offering a student-centered approach and a focus on student development inside and outside the classroom. Importantly, 96% of students in grades 1-4 scored average or above average on MAP (the Measure of Academic Progress) testing. Every first through fourth grade student participates in Frontiers, an enrichment class designed to guide them in problem solving through creative thinking, and beginning in Preschool, students participate in an immersive Spanish program at least once each week. On Friday mornings, the entire Lower School gathers in the Dent Fine Arts Center Gallery for singing, skits, stories, public speaking opportunities, and special guest presentations.

The Middle School program at The Day School focuses on the growth and development of each student's character, knowledge base, and essential learning skills. The curriculum is enhanced with the addition of Latin, French, Spanish, and German languages as well as arts and athletics. Faculty emphasize the importance of perseverance, thinking critically and thoughtfully, and examining new ideas and experiences by making connections across educational disciplines. A love of reading runs deep in the Middle School. In fact, students in fifth grade spend at least four hours each week reading independently.

In the Upper School, students benefit from a broad exposure to the classic liberal arts as well as a sharpening of their critical thinking and persuasive writing skills and their ability to blend ideas across disciplines.

Through rigorous coursework, including more than 20 Advanced Placement (AP) offerings, and experiential learning opportunities, students mature into self-reliant, self-directed learners. A distinct characteristic of English, history and philosophy classes at SDS is the seminar style discussions around Harkness tables. Math coursework is offered through BC Calculus. The college counseling office, with a staff of four, works with students and families starting in ninth grade. The Upper School students are thoroughly prepared for and step confidently into their collegiate experience and beyond.

### ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Recognizing the need for differentiated learning support, the VISTAS (Varied Instructional Strategies for Teaching all Students) program was developed in 1998. For students with learning differences in all three divisions, this program is designed to support student success. Eight teachers use proven techniques and integrated technologies to address each child's needs, strengths, and abilities. The VISTAS teachers work closely with classroom teachers and families.





The athletic program at The Day School is comprehensive and robust. Beginning in Middle School, students participate in Griffin athletics with the choice of 10 team sports: baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cross-country, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. Through SDS's organized sports program, students learn to appreciate teamwork, develop a healthy competitive spirit, and take pride in their physical accomplishments. The Day School's athletic fields and facilities are impressive. The Webster Athletic Center complex includes two competition size basketball courts and a 600-seat gymnasium while The Bob Allsbrook Tennis Pavilion boasts nine tennis courts. Furthermore, the soccer and baseball fields and an impressive track complex round out the facilities that support The Day School's commitment to athletic excellence.



The Day School's Visual and Performing Arts program allows students unparalleled and exciting opportunities in band, chorus, drama, and visual arts. Students are encouraged to use creativity, imagination, expression, and problem solving to explore and engage in arts programming.

The Mildred Harrison Dent Fine Arts Center and Endowment is at the heart of the fine arts program at The Day School. The endowment funds performances by resident and exhibiting artists regularly in the Dent. SDS is also fortunate to have more than 130 works of art on display throughout the campus as part of the Nancy Corbin Permanent Art Collection.



Students at The Day School thrive in the community-focused environment. Through special school-wide events, students routinely make lifelong memories during their years at SDS. For Halloween, the band leads a parade through the halls which culminates in faculty and students circling the track in costume. Afterwards, the Upper School students host an elaborate trunk-or-treat for the Lower and Middle School students. Before Thanksgiving, the 4K classes participate in the Turkey Trot where students dress as turkeys and waddle around campus. In the spring, the fourth grade students prepare and present Fourth Grade Speeches as the culmination of a six-week writing unit. As part of an revered Middle School tradition, the sixth grade students spend weeks learning at least seven ballroom dances and participating in a ball attended by parents and faculty. The seventh and eighth grade students take annual trips to explore new places and bond with their respective class. For a week each March, the Upper School students enjoy Special Studies week which is a time to leave the classroom and travel across town or across the world. Some past offerings include art tours of Quebec, the BMW driving school, local community service, creative writing in the North Carolina mountains, and construction of an elementary school in Nicaragua. Finally, in one of the most memorable SDS experiences, the senior class parades through the halls dressed in cap and gown, takes class photos, and signs the college banner where students write their college acceptances and circle their top choices.



Located in the beautiful foothills of Upstate, South Carolina, Spartanburg is a vibrant, international community with something for everyone. As the fourth largest county in SC, and 12th largest city, Spartanburg presents the feel of an intimate, open and collaborative community, while also allowing residents to enjoy the benefits of city life—award-winning food and a thriving arts and cultural scene. Spartanburg offers farmers’ markets, galleries, concerts, preserved historical landmarks, and more.

Served by two major interstates (I-85 and I-26) and located between Charlotte and Atlanta, Spartanburg is a regional economic leader with an emerging downtown and an abundance of natural amenities. Nestled just south of the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains and only 3.5 hours north of gorgeous beaches, Spartanburg offers ready access to a plethora of activities for the outdoor enthusiast.

With its seven public and private colleges, Spartanburg is a "college town" that values higher education and consistently provides fresh talent, entertainment, and activities for families, individuals, and anyone in between. Whether education, safe communities, four beautiful seasons, culture, healthcare, recreation, access to travel, mountains, lakes, golf, beach, or affordable living are important to you, you will find what you are looking for in Spartanburg – a community bursting with opportunity and discovery!



### Recent notable, national mentions include:

- Food & Wine named Spartanburg a “foodie destination”
- Featuring Spartanburg and the Spartanburg Academic Movement, David Brooks, of the New York Times wrote, “A Really Good Thing is Happening in America”
- 9th Best Hidden Gem Market in the United States (National Association of Realtors)
- 24th Best Place to Live; #1 in SC (US News and World Report)
- 9th Coolest Town in America (Matador Network)
- #4 in “Economic Strength Nationwide” (Area Development)

<https://seeyourselfinspartanburg.com>





# SPARTANBURG DAY SCHOOL FAST FACTS

## SCHOOL



- **Established:** 1957
- **Grades:** 2K-12
- **Enrollment:** 535
- **Average Class Size:** 12
- **Athletic Teams:** 26
- **Middle Schoolers who have the opportunity to participate on an athletic team:** 100%
- **Students who earn admission to one of their top three college choices:** 97%
- **Student to college counselor ratio:** 9:1
- **Average SAT:** 1237 (177 points above the national average)
- **AP students with passing scores:** 80%
- **1st-4th Grade students who read 100 books during the school year:** 100%
- **Number of locks on lockers thanks to the honor code:** 0
- **Public speaking opportunities by 4th grade:** 8

## TUITION



- **Tuition:** Flexible tuition model
- **Financial Aid Awarded:** \$2.1 million
- **Number of students receiving aid:** 53%

## FINANCE



- **Endowment:** Approaching \$40M
- **Annual Fund:** Exceeded the Annual Fund Goal for 10+ years
- **Debt:** \$0M

**Memberships & Accreditation**



## Professional Qualities

A successful candidate will exhibit:

- Excellent oral and written communication skills and the motivation to use these skills in service of the mission of The Day School and the Spartanburg community
- Demonstrated leadership attributes including the ability to mentor and develop other aspiring leaders at all levels
- Business/financial experience and acumen
- Strategic, long-term planning abilities
- Strong operational management skills
- High standards for themselves, the trustees, the students, faculty, and administration

## Personal Qualities

- Strong relational skills such that students, faculty, and parents respond to offered leadership
- Ability to motivate and inspire others to achieve high performance and to bring people together for a common purpose
- Genuine love of working with students in a dynamic learning environment
- Relatable, approachable personality



## Challenges and Opportunities

The new Head of School will be expected to:

- Uphold standards of excellence for the academic program
- Effectively recruit and retain faculty and staff
- Articulate the school's value proposition to promote enrollment
- Further strengthen the school's financial position by increasing net tuition revenue and continuing to control costs
- Embody and promote SDS's mission statement



# How to Apply

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Prospective candidates should send the following materials in a single PDF document to the search consultants.

- Letter of interest specifically addressing this position and school
- Resume (education and work experience)
- Statement of educational philosophy
- List of five professional references with contact information
- Letters of reference, if available, but not required

*The School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, financial aid programs, or school-administered programs.*



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