



FOUNDING SCHOOL LEADER

Harriet Tubman School of Science & Technology

Atlanta, GA

Opening in August 2019, Harriet Tubman School of Science and Technology (HTCS for “Harriet Tubman Charter School”) aims to use a data-driven model to create student academic success and build lifelong career skills in technology and computer science for educationally disadvantaged students. Initially serving 200 students in kindergarten through third grade, the school plans to grow to 300 students K-5 over the next two years.

HTCS’s founding Board of Directors came together with the goal of creating an excellent elementary charter school option for the Southeast Atlanta community. Currently, there are very few high-performing schools in the neighboring ZIP codes, and many students are waitlisted for the local charter option.

HTCS – which will be open in a newly renovated school building – seeks to meet the existing demand while working to bridge the digital divide among educationally disadvantaged students by providing a STEM-focused curriculum to children who may not otherwise have significant access to technology outside of the classroom.

With an individualized educational program, the school seeks to foster academic excellence through targeted, consistent goals at the school, classroom, and student levels. HTCS will also follow the Collaborative for

Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) program to promote self-esteem and foster a healthy, productive school community.

At the center of the school’s educational philosophy is a commitment to developing each student’s computational thinking skills. Logic, deductive reasoning, and pattern recognition skills will be woven throughout the curriculum in addition to twice-weekly computer science classes that focus intensively on these fundamentals.

For a position to begin in July 2019, HTCS seeks a Founding School Leader who is inspired by its mission and eager to join the community it serves. This is an exciting opportunity for an educational leader with the experience, energy, and enthusiasm to see the school through its startup years and prepare it for a sustainable and impactful future.



APPLICATION DEADLINE: ASAP

Priority deadline: April 3, 2019



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

HTCS's curriculum uses computational thinking practices to reinforce learning across all subjects, including English language arts, social studies, math, and science. In addition to the core curriculum, the school offers students a chance to build significant skills in computer science and coding.

A typical school day will include yoga, math, English language arts, recess, social studies, science or computer science, PE, and social-emotional learning based on the CASEL program. All students are required to take part in the school's extended day, which is tailored to students' needs and includes extra instruction in English and math, private tutoring, and additional opportunities to build computer science skills.

Because the Board anticipates that students will come from a variety of educational backgrounds, differentiated instruction is key to the school's educational practice. Students will be grouped according to skill-level, and lesson plans will be shared across the school to insure that students are developing a consistent set of skills in all sections. With robust data-collection incorporated into teaching and learning, teachers will be able to quickly assess and adjust their instruction in order to best serve their students. Additionally, in line with its emphasis on computer science, HTCS employs blended learning practices, including iReady programs in English language arts and the code.org curriculum in computer science.

The Board has secured a lease for the former campus of Saint Anthony's Parish School and has begun to renovate and update the facility. With 22 classrooms, a library, and ample office space, the space will be well-equipped to support the school as it grows. Located on Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard, the campus is easily accessible by car, foot, and public transportation.

To learn more about the HTCS's educational and operational plans, view the school's complete charter application at:

<http://bit.ly/2HkWvkU>

THE POSITION: SCHOOL LEADER

The School Leader reports to the Board of Directors and is responsible for implementing the academic vision and mission of the school through effective hiring, mentoring, and team-building; optimal professional development practices; insightful data analysis; deep community engagement; and management of school finances and facilities.

This position calls for an organized leader who is passionate about STEM learning and educating children from traditionally underserved backgrounds. The School Leader will work to build a supportive culture that celebrates academic excellence and strong interpersonal relationships. S/he will be deeply involved in the life of the school and will be vital to building a healthy community among students and families.

Ideally, the founding School Leader will have the following credentials and characteristics:

- A passion for serving economically disadvantaged students, particularly in an urban setting
- A record of success closing achievement gaps among educationally disadvantaged children
- A strong, fair leadership style
- Excellent communication skills, written and verbal
- Ability to leverage social media to the school's advantage
- Understanding and appreciation of Southeast Atlanta
- Teaching experience, preferably in grades K-5
- Strong academic credentials, including an advanced degree
- Culturally competent
- A sincere interest in the care and well-being of young children
- A community-oriented outlook
- A growth mindset
- Unimpeachable character; a strong role model
- Mature and self-aware
- An entrepreneurial spark



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND SEARCH PROCESS

Acting on behalf of Harriet Tubman School of Science and Technology, Wickenden Associates is actively recruiting talented academic leaders for this unique leadership opportunity. The lead consultants are James Wickenden (jwickenden@wickenden.com) and Peter Thorp. Jim may be reached at (609) 683-1355.

Note: This is an expedited search. Candidates are encouraged to contact Wickenden Associates as soon as possible to discuss the opportunity and the search process. For priority consideration, materials should be submitted no later than Wednesday, April 3, 2019. Applications will be evaluated after April 12, and semifinalist candidates will be interviewed in late April.

Candidates should submit the following:

- A cover letter indicating why they are particularly interested in and qualified for the position.
- A current résumé.
- A statement of educational philosophy.
- The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three references. (Please submit this information on a separate document, not as part of your résumé or cover letter. We will obtain permission from candidates before contacting references.)
- Optional: Other supporting material (e.g. articles, speeches, or letters of recommendation) that may be useful to the Search Committee.

These materials should be sent as email attachments to searches@wickenden.com. After an initial review of applicants, the Search Committee will interview selected candidates in late April. Finalist candidates may be asked to complete additional writing assignments and/or participate in a case study. Wickenden Associates will keep all applicants informed of their status throughout the process.

