

# RECENT SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE SEARCHES



WICKENDEN  
ASSOCIATES

*This sampling of recent senior administrative searches illustrates the broad range of schools we serve and the strength of their appointees.*

## ETHICAL CULTURE FIELDSTON SCHOOL

NEW YORK, NY (2018-19)

*Since its founding in 1878, Ethical Culture Fieldston School has been a beacon of progressive education in America. Known among New York City independent schools as a place where children are simultaneously encouraged to revel in the joys of childhood and confront the challenges presented by the modern world, ECFS emphasizes ethical thinking, academic excellence, and student-centered learning.*

**PRINCIPAL, FIELDSTON UPPER - Nigel Furlonge** was Associate Head of School at Holderness School from 2015-2018 before his appointment at ECFS. Previous posts include Admissions Director and Dean of Students and Residential Life at Christina Seix Academy, Academic Dean at The Lawrenceville School, and Director of Studies at St. Andrew's School (DE). Nigel is a graduate of Boston Latin School and holds a B.A. in American History with a minor in African American Studies from The University of Pennsylvania, an M.A. in American History from Villanova University, and an M.Ed. in Organization and Private School Leadership from Columbia University.



**PRINCIPAL, FIELDSTON LOWER - Joseph McCauley** previously served as Assistant Head of Pre- and Lower School at The Packer Collegiate Institute before joining Fieldston. He joined Packer in 2008 as a fourth-grade teacher. During his time there, he was Director of the Teacher Mentor Program, Leader of Yearlong Staff Development Groups, and a member of the Lower School Curriculum Leadership Team, as well as the Strategic Plan Task Force on Community and Identity. Joe earned a B.A. in History from the University of Wisconsin and an M.S. in Elementary Education from Hunter College.



**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER - Christopher Harper** moved to ECFS after serving as Director of Finance and Operations at Lake Forest Country Day School in Lake Forest, IL. Previously, he was Associate Director of Enrollment Management at Latin School of Chicago, where he was also Apprentice to the Chief of Finance and Operations. Prior to his time at Latin, he was the Executive Director and Founder of Apex Elite Academy in Chicago, while also serving as a faculty member and coach at The University of Chicago Laboratory Schools. Christopher received a B.S. in Economics from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and an M.B.A. from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.



## PEDDIE SCHOOL

HIGHTSTOWN, NJ (2018)

*Founded in 1864, Peddie School is an independent, coeducational, college preparatory school of 550 students, grades 9 through post-graduate. It is primarily a boarding school, with 63 percent of the students and 90 percent of the faculty living on campus. Among the nation's premier boarding and day schools, Peddie School is known as a thriving institution with a warm, unpretentious, entrepreneurial culture.*

**ASSISTANT HEAD OF SCHOOL FOR DEVELOPMENT - Karyn Vella** was previously Assistant Head for External Affairs, Campaign Director, and Director of Enrollment and Financial Aid at Allendale Columbia School. Previously, she was Director of Annual Giving at Winchester Thurston School and has worked at Shady Side Academy, Brophy College Preparatory, Bryn Mawr School, and Oldfields School in a variety of roles. Karyn is a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy and holds a B.A. in English from Dartmouth College.



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## PRINCETON DAY SCHOOL

PRINCETON, NJ (2019)

*An independent, coeducational day school serving approximately 970 students from Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade, Princeton Day School (PDS) offers a challenging academic curriculum taught by a talented and experienced faculty, as well as extensive offerings in the arts, athletics, and other extracurricular activities.*

**HEAD OF LOWER SCHOOL** – From 2012 until her appointment at PDS, **Sandy Wang** was Assistant Principal of the Lower School at Trinity School in New York City; she also served as the division’s interim leader in two, nonconsecutive years. Prior to her time at Trinity, she was Assistant Director of the Lower School at Trevor Day School, and she began her career as teacher at The Dalton School. Sandy holds a B.A. from Barnard College, an M.A. from New York University, and an Ed.M. and an Ed.D. from Teachers College, Columbia University.



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## THE BROWNING SCHOOL

NEW YORK, NY (2018)

*Founded by scholar and teacher John A. Browning, The Browning School has been a leader in fostering the intellectual and personal growth of boys and young men since 1888. Enrolling 402 students in kindergarten through grade 12, Browning strives to combine the best of a traditional prep school environment and curriculum with imaginative teaching and a strong value system.*

**HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL** - **Danielle Passno** held several positions at The Spence School before her move to Browning, including Director of Outreach and Public Purpose, Upper School Dean of Student Life and Leadership, Grade 9 Dean, and Upper and a Middle School Math Teacher. Danielle has also been appointed to the faculty of the Klingenstein Summer Institute. She holds a B.A. from Dartmouth College in Engineering Sciences modified with Studio Art with minors in English and Education and an M.A. in Education Leadership from Columbia University.



**HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL** - For 12 years, **Gene Campbell** was a teacher and administrator at St. Albans School. In addition to his duties as Senior Dean of Students, he served as Assistant Director of Upper School Admission, taught English, and coached football and basketball. Prior to his arrival at St. Albans, Gene taught at Kent School in Connecticut. He earned a B.A. in English from Georgetown University and an M.A. in English from the Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College.



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## HOLY INNOCENTS' EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

ATLANTA, GA (2018)

*The largest Episcopal parish day school in the country, Holy Innocents' Episcopal School educates more than 1,350 students from age 3 through grade 12. The school offers a balanced college preparatory program to 525 Upper School students, emphasizing academics, athletics, arts, and spiritual growth.*

**UPPER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL** - **Manning Weir** was Upper School Principal at The Brookstone School from 2011 until his move to Holy Innocents'. He served as Upper School Assistant Principal at Stratford Academy from 2007-2011 and was Director of Student Life at Memphis University School for four years, after joining the school in 1998 as an Academic Counselor. Manning holds a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in American History from Connecticut College and an M.S. in Psychology from The University of Memphis.



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## LAKESIDE SCHOOL

SEATTLE, WA (2017)

*Founded in 1919, Lakeside School is an independent coeducational day school offering a broad curriculum in the liberal arts to a diverse student body numbering 858 in grades 5–12.*

**DIRECTOR OF UPPER SCHOOL** - Before moving to Seattle, **Felicia Wilks** was Head of Upper School at Garrison Forrest School in Maryland. From 2010 to 2015, she was the Director of Diversity and a member of the leadership team at Friends School of Baltimore. She also chaired the Upper School English Department and directed its Middle Grades Partnership Project at Friends School. Earlier, she taught at Catonsville Educational Center, Baltimore City Community College, and Paul Robeson High School in Brooklyn, NY. Felicia holds a B.A. in African American Studies from Columbia University and an M.A. in writing from Johns Hopkins University.



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## COLUMBIA GRAMMAR AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL

NEW YORK, NY (2017-18)

*Founded in 1764, Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School (CGPS) is one of the nation's oldest private schools and the largest independent school in Manhattan. CGPS offers a rigorous and comprehensive college preparatory education to more than 1,300 students in Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12.*

**DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT** - **Jennifer Rhodes** was Director of Institutional Advancement at The Cathedral School in New York City for four years before moving to CGPS. Previously, she was a Senior Advancement officer at Viewpoint School in Los Angeles and Alumnae Director for The Chapin Centennial Campaign at The Chapin School in New York. Jennifer Holds a B.A. in Theater Arts from Rollins College and is a graduate of The Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, Connecticut.



**GRAMMAR SCHOOL DIRECTOR** - **Sarah McLean** was previously the Head of English Learning (Elementary Division) at Chinese International School in Hong Kong, where she was initially hired as an elementary school teacher. Earlier in her career, she taught English in Taipei, Taiwan. Sarah is a graduate of Yale University and holds an M.A. in Bilingual/Bicultural Education from Teachers College, Columbia University.



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## THE SPENCE SCHOOL

NEW YORK, NY (2019)

*Founded by Clara B. Spence in 1892, The Spence School is an independent, college preparatory day school serving 752 girls in Kindergarten through grade 12. Ranking among the nation's preeminent schools for girls, Spence is committed to high academic standards, integrity, a diverse student body, and a purpose larger than oneself.*

**CO-DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING** – Before moving to Spence, **Beth Pili** spent a decade at Horace Mann School, first as Associate Director of College Counseling and then as Director of College Counseling Initiatives. She also serves as Director of College Counseling at the Heckscher Scholars Program. Prior positions include Director of Multicultural Recruitment and Associate Director of Admissions in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at Columbia University, Senior Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Multicultural Recruitment at Yale, and Associate Director of Admissions and Coordinator of Multicultural Recruitment at Barnard College. Beth received a B.A. in history from Bryn Mawr College and an M.A. in organization and leadership with an emphasis in post-secondary education from Columbia University.



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## THE JOHN THOMAS DYE SCHOOL

LOS ANGELES, CA (2018)

*Founded in 1929 and ranking among the nation's premier independent elementary schools, The John Thomas Dye School provides 336 students in grades K-6 an educational experience that is both traditional and dynamic*

**DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT** - From 2014-2018, **Kate Merritt** served as Associate Director of Advancement for Annual Fund and Alumni Programs at Shorecrest Preparatory School in St. Petersburg, Florida. Previously she held a number of positions at Cate School in Carpinteria, California, including Parent Fund and Events Manager and Research and Special Projects Assistant. She holds a B.S. in Communications from Wake Forest University.



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## THE AGNES IRWIN SCHOOL

ROSEMONT, PA (2017)

*Founded in 1869, The Agnes Irwin School is an independent day school in the western suburbs of Philadelphia. It serves 606 girls in Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12, including nearly 200 students in the Middle School (grades 5-8).*

**DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL** - **Cintra Horn** had been Head of Lower School at The Awty International School in Houston, Texas before her move to Agnes Irwin. Throughout her career, she held a range of positions at both the lower and middle School levels, including teacher, Division Director, Deputy Head, and Interim Director of Admissions. Cintra received both a B.Ed. in History and French and a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Education for School Leadership from the University of Manitoba. She received an M.Ed. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Toronto through the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.



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## THE BLAKE SCHOOL

MINNEAPOLIS, MN (2017)

*Founded in 1900, The Blake School is an independent nonsectarian day school for students in grades PK-12. Recognized as one of the leading schools in the Midwest, Blake serves 1,366 students on three campuses in the greater Twin Cities area.*

**DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING** - **Sara Kyle** joined the Blake community in 2001, and was promoted from Associate Director of College Counseling to the directorship in the summer of 2017. Prior to her time at Blake, she served as Director of Admissions at St. Olaf College, her alma mater. Sara is a past president of the Minnesota Association of College Admissions Professionals and has led efforts in leadership development, membership, and publicity for the regional organization. She is also active in regional and national advocacy work through the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC).



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## THE TOWN SCHOOL

NEW YORK, NY (2019)

*Founded in 1913, Town is an independent coeducational day school serving approximately 400 children from age 3 through grade 8. A warm, inclusive, diverse, and values-centered school community, Town is dedicated to academic excellence, joy, innovation, and character development.*

**HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL** - Prior to her appointment at Town, **Carol Seeley** was Head of the Middle School at Poly Prep Country Day School in Brooklyn, New York. Carol also served Poly's Dean of Students for grades seven and eight. Earlier in her career, she taught math at the Park School in Brookline, Massachusetts and at Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School in New York City. She is a graduate of Groton School in Connecticut, and she earned her B.A. in Sociology-based Human Relations from Connecticut College.

