Kansas City Christian School

Profile and Application

For the position of

Head of School

Starting Summer 2017

The Vision for our school:

“Kansas City Christian School is a Christ-centered community where faith is exercised to maturity; where students rigorously pursue knowledge; and where Godly character is honored.”

Contact: Dan Vander Ark
Phone: 616-828-9235
Email: dvanderark@mykccs.org
Head of School Profile and Application

Responsibilities:
The Head of School is the chief executive officer of KCCS who

• embraces the school’s mission and values of Character-Faith-Knowledge;
• leads our school to equip the next generation of leaders to change the world for Christ;
• develops strategy, policy, programming, and team structures (faculty, administration) which comport with the school’s mission;
• implements the directives of the governing Board within all federal, state and local requirements;
• clearly communicates the school’s mission, practices, and achievements to parents, community, and potential participants;
• strongly leads all fundraising, including visiting donors, seeking grants, and directing staff; and
• prepares annual budgets, provides accurate financial reporting, and offers guidance in long term financial sustainability.

Qualifications:

• A Bachelor’s degree
• A Master’s Degree in Education or Business (Preferred)
• Demonstrated experience in fundraising
• A passionate disciple of Christ who models it with integrity
• Demonstrated leadership in church and, preferably, Christian schooling
• Both attentive in listening and decisive in leading
• A clear writer and speaker to all audiences, inside and outside the school

Process for Applying:

1. Read the Kansas City Christian School Profile (following application directions).
2. Refer to school’s website to explore: statement of faith, mission and vision, activities of students, board members, staff, academic character of the school, etc. www.kcchristianschool.org/
3. Proceed to the following page to complete the application requirements listed there.
4. Send electronically all information to dvanderark@mykccs.org
5. The Search Committee will begin consideration of candidates on Nov. 21, 2016 and fill the position as soon as it finds a suitable candidate.
6. Call Dan Vander Ark at 616-828-9235 if you have questions or email him at dvanderark@mykccs.org
Application Form for Head of School
Kansas City Christian School

Complete all four of the following parts of the application and submit electronically to dvanderark@mykccs.org

1. A current resume (including all contact information for references) listing your educational and administrative credentials, all work experience after high school, and dates of employment.

2. The names and best contact numbers of five references, including three who best know your work over the past ten years, one of which must be your current supervisor.

3. A brief cover letter describing your interest in the position.

4. Your answers to the following questions (within the space constraints listed):
   - Who is Jesus Christ to you? (one paragraph)
   - What is your current involvement in your church? (one paragraph)
   - If someone were to ask you, “Why Christian day school education?” what would you say? (two paragraphs)
   - Which aspects of the profile will you likely accomplish very well? On what basis do you make these judgments? (two paragraphs)
   - Were you the leader of Kansas City Christian Schools for five years, what likely would most followers (parents, administrators, teachers) say about your work? (two paragraphs)
   - Were we to interview ten randomly-selected people whom you led directly (teachers, other employees, etc.) in the past ten years, what would they say your strengths are? Those things in which you need improvement or support from others? (two paragraphs)
   - Describe a project in your past that you led others to implement, from dream to success. (two paragraphs)
Kansas City Christian School

Opportunity Profile

For the position of

Head of School

Starting Summer 2017

The Vision for our school:

“Kansas City Christian School is a Christ-centered community where faith is exercised to maturity; where students rigorously pursue knowledge; and where Godly character is honored.”

Contact: Dan Vander Ark
Our School and Community

Kansas City Christian School (KCCS) is home to 500+ students, K-12th grade and staff of more than 80 teachers, coaches, support staff, and administration. Our focus on Christian education within the context of a Christian worldview has a rich heritage dating back to 1951. KCCS is located in Prairie Village, Kansas, a robust, thriving suburb in northeast Johnson County, KS, just 15 minutes outside of downtown. KCCS is also made up of a diverse community, encompassing families from the urban core to the suburbs of the greater Kansas City metropolitan area. The sense of community at KCCS extends beyond shared beliefs and is displayed through a collaborative spirit among faculty, students, and parents. Our faculty is dedicated to mentoring and teaching, with their focus on making the life of Jesus Christ not just an example but also applicable to students’ lives. Students develop this shared identity through their faith, bringing them together in their pursuit of knowledge. This common fellowship makes it possible for individual personalities to emerge with confidence and to be valued in a community of acceptance. This union of the faculty’s goals and the students’ pursuits creates a truly unique and impactful culture.

The community has been recognized with many awards including:

- **Top 10 places to live in America**, Money Magazine
- **Best Places in America to Move to**, Forbes Magazine
- **Top city for Start-Up Businesses**, Business Week
- **America’s Best places to Grow Up**, U.S. News & World Report
- **Best Places to Raise Kids**, Business Week

Greater Kansas City, including Johnson County, Kansas has earned the reputation as one of the fastest growing communities in the United States. Kansas City is home to several well-known businesses such as Cerner, Garmin, Sprint, H&R Block, DST, YRC, and the Federal Reserve of KC. Kansas City has become a hub for global AEC (Architecture, Engineering and Construction) firms including Black & Veatch, Burns & McDonnell, HNTB, HOK, and JE Dunn. These firms recruit within our region leveraging close proximity to nationally-ranked AEC Universities providing top talent to these growing firms, including Kansas, Kansas State, Nebraska, Iowa-Iowa State, Arkansas, Washington University and MO Science and Technology. Many families are also attracted to the community due to the low cost of living, quality health care, and our professional sports teams: the Kansas City Royals, Sporting Kansas City, and the Kansas City Chiefs.
Lasting Impressions

Since our founding in 1951, extracurricular activities have rounded out our academic and athletic offerings. We believe each club, team, and council gives students the opportunity to learn about and collaborate with each other in non-academic areas. New-found talent, genuine passion, and lasting friendships are often the result of our extracurricular activities. Elementary students take part in the annual art fair, classroom field trips, and various service projects. Middle school students participate in student government, LEGO robotics, school retreats, and athletics. These programs continue into high school along with yearbook, Scholars Bowl, theatre, forensics, BEST robotics, choir, band, and the unique opportunity of a Senior Mission Trip. The high school also offers a student chapel committee, community groups where students meet in small groups with faculty members, and numerous opportunities for students to participate in worship teams.
Academics

Beginning in our elementary program, students are taught to see all of life and all of our curriculum from a Christian perspective. This training takes place through intentional instruction from our teachers in the core principles of our faith, along with training them in critical thinking skills, valuing honest questions, and supporting genuine curiosity about God and His world. Our student population ranges in academic ability, necessitating enriched and advanced programs along with academic support for students who struggle. Along with our core courses, students participate in co-curriculars including music, art, physical education, computer, chapel, and recess at the elementary level. As students enter middle school, the seventh and eighth grade curriculum offers an environment that gives them a sense of ownership and helps them mature during a challenging phase of their lives. These students also gain access to opportunities such as our Student Council program, expanded school athletics, and journalism. The high school curriculum is primarily college preparatory and includes dual-credit with colleges, honors level classes, and Advanced Placement courses (AP). A vast majority of our seniors are enrolled in one or more advanced offerings. Course offerings also include foreign language, technology, art, music, debate, forensics, drama, creative writing, strength training, and others. Leadership opportunities are available through various clubs and organizations, with over 95% of our seniors continuing on to pursue four-year college degrees. A majority of our students receive academic, leadership, and/or athletic scholarships to a wide variety of higher educational institutions across the country. KCCS students excel academically with ACT scores consistently above both the national and local schools’ averages.
Athletics

We are blessed with a fantastic athletic program featuring soccer, basketball, cheerleading, baseball, cross country, tennis, golf, track, and volleyball. Sports at the competitive level begin in sixth grade. Our teams are ranked highly among public and private schools in the region, and many have placed at state tournaments. KCCS is a member of KSHSAA and the XRC Conference. The cross country team, varsity boys’ soccer team, boys’ and girls’ tennis teams have won state championships in recent years.
Facility Planning

During the fall of 2016, our Administration and Board will be acting on a multi-year strategic planning effort with specific focus on upgrading our main campus in Prairie Village. We will be launching a capital campaign very soon and welcome what God has provided for our facility needs. When finished, the school will be an ever finer place for our students, staff, administration and generations to come. The new Head of School will join KCCS as we begin phase 1 of our facility plan and also play a key part in development and fund raising for both annual operating and long-term capital needs in future years. Please see below a snapshot of ideas created with our retained architecture firm as we begin to launch this vision to our community and partners.

Vision and Key Additions

- Prairie Village Campus Improvements – effectively utilizing existing assets.
- A compelling vision for prospective families the moment they walk in the door.
- Student-initiated learning spaces and teacher workspace.
- Places for musicians, artists, and athletes to learn, grow, and express talents.
- Lunch room and Auxiliary space/gymnasium.
- Spaces that support our already strong parent community.
- Places for prayer, gathering, and projects.