

# Opportunity Statement Director of Technology

Named in honor of Louise Thaden, a pioneering aviator from Bentonville, Thaden School opened in the fall of 2017 with just 50 students in Grades 7 and 9. With its well-resourced Indexed Tuition program, the School has grown steadily, and enrollment is over 380 students in Grades K-2 and 5-12 for the 2025-26 academic year. Designed by a world-class team of architects, the School's 35-acre campus in downtown Bentonville will support as many as 600 students. By the 2026-27 academic year, Thaden will offer Grades K-12.

Thaden School now seeks a Director of Technology, reporting to the Chief Finance and Operations Officer, to lead and manage the School's technology strategy and infrastructure. The Director of Technology is responsible for all aspects of technology at the School, from maintenance and organization to curricular integration and innovation in light of emerging technologies.

## Role and Responsibilities

- Develop and execute a forward-looking technology strategy that aligns with the School's educational mission.
- Supervise, mentor, and develop the technology team (Technology Manager and Data Systems Manager), fostering a culture of service, continuous improvement, professional excellence, and innovation.
- Forge partnerships with teachers and academic leaders to promote strategic and thoughtful
  deployment of technology into the curriculum in ways that enhance learning outcomes and the
  student experience.
- Provide leadership, vision, and day-to-day management of the IT department, including data network and backup systems, firewall and security issues, databases, servers, printers, and telephone systems.
- Maintain secure, efficient, and robust server and network architecture, as well as cost-effective improvements to network and cloud-based applications.
- Ensure efficiencies in the collection, analysis, usage, retention, and sharing of academic and administrative information and data.
- Serve as a thought partner and monitor emerging trends in AI to anticipate opportunities and risks and guide the school in developing responsible use policies and adopting best practices in educational and business.
- Oversee the technology budget, ensuring optimal allocation of resources for maximum impact.
- Take an active role in the life of the school and perform other duties as assigned.

#### Skills, Qualifications, and Attributes

- Bachelor's degree in an appropriate field (information technology, computer science, systems management, or related discipline); master's degree preferred
- At least five years of experience in technology leadership
- Experience in independent schools preferred
- Ability to prioritize and manage multiple technology projects simultaneously
- Current and in-depth knowledge of network architecture; telecommunication; wireless, mobile, and cloud technologies
- Knowledge of administrative and academic database systems
- Strong organizational, technical, and analytical skills
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, both written and verbal, with the ability to work effectively with diverse stakeholders
- Strong problem solving skills with a high degree of diplomacy
- A team-oriented mindset and an interest in working collaboratively with the school community

# **Physical Requirements**

- Job frequently requires standing, walking, and handling objects with hands
- Job occasionally requires reaching, climbing, stooping, kneeling, pushing, pulling, and lifting up to 25 pounds
- Some work performed outside may require exposure to changing weather conditions

## Wage Classification

Based on the duties and requirements above, this position will be paid as a salaried exempt employee.

# **Applications**

Please submit your application materials through our online portal for Thaden School Job Opportunities. Applications should include a cover letter and resume. The start date is negotiable but before June 30, 2026. Thaden School is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all federal, state, and local laws that prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, national origin, citizenship, age (18 or older), religion, disability, marital status, veteran status, and sexual orientation. Applications by members of all underrepresented groups, including women and people of color, are encouraged.

Salary will be competitive within the independent school sector. All offers of employment are contingent

upon successful completion of a criminal background check.

#### About the School

A non-sectarian independent school under the direction of its own board, Thaden School offers a challenging and innovative educational program that ignites in students a passion for discovery and learning, prepares them to succeed in college, and inspires them to lead lives of integrity, purpose, and responsible global citizenship. The school received full accreditation from the Independent School Association of the Central States in January 2023, and Niche.com named Thaden the #1 independent high school in Arkansas in 2022, 2023, and 2024.

At the core of the School's mission is a commitment to balance that takes many forms: a curriculum that integrates the sciences and the humanities; indoor and outdoor teaching spaces where sustainability is a tangible part of the lesson; hands-on programs for civic engagement; athletics and physical education programs that build confidence and character through competition and meaningful participation; and a diverse faculty and staff that empower students to think deeply and expansively about their potential and place in the world. The School's robust Indexed Tuition program supports creating a balanced learning community where students of many perspectives, talents, and interests learn and grow stronger together.

Located on a 35-acre campus in downtown Bentonville, the School is within walking distance of the town square, Brightwater Culinary Institute, The Momentary, and various other educational resources. The School engaged a world-class team of architects to design an enduring and innovative campus that sparks curiosity, inspires creativity, and invites reflection. The principal designer, Marlon Blackwell, is the 2020 recipient of the American Institute of Architects' Gold Medal, the Institute's highest honor. The School's first permanent buildings opened in the fall of 2019, and the completed campus was recently the subject of a feature article in <u>Architectural Record</u>.

The School's website features additional information regarding its mission, educational programs, and faculty and staff.