



SAN DIEGO
Jewish Academy

Challenge Minds. Inspire Purpose. Explore Possibilities.

SAN DIEGO JEWISH ACADEMY

Director, Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Thinking

SUMMARY

Location | San Diego, CA

Post Date | November 27, 2017

Application Deadline | January 15, 2018

Decision Announced | February 28, 2018

Start Date | July 1, 2018 (or earlier if mutually agreeable)

Reports To | Head of School



BACKGROUND

It is not often that a PK-12 institution creates a position that singularly represents a new strategic vision for the school. A position that will lead the entire community on a journey to not only reimagine traditional teaching and learning, but of equal importance develop transformative partnerships with external research institutions, universities, and innovative companies. A position that sits squarely and authentically at the intersection of technology, innovation, and entrepreneurialism, serving as the conduit between those disciplines and the traditional academic program of the school. A position for which so many at the school have high expectations and great anticipation, but also one that will have a chance to build a new program from the ground up through iteration and experimentation.

That school is San Diego Jewish Academy, a PK-12 school in the Carmel Valley community of San Diego. And that position is Director, Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Thinking. This new role, which begins in July 2018 and is the first step of a bold and exciting strategic vision, reports to the Head of School and serves on the senior leadership team.

MISSION AND VISION

San Diego Jewish Academy is shaping the foundation of future thinkers, creators, and community leaders by blending modern education with deeper purpose and meaning.

A pluralistic preschool – 12th grade school serving the Jewish community, San Diego Jewish Academy has established a mission to further academic excellence, social responsibility, and active Jewish living. San Diego Jewish Academy does this by:

- Inspiring students to embrace creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial thinking in their learning;
- Instilling in students a deep understanding and respect for the values and insights of Jewish tradition and a love of Israel that will lead them to live lives of Jewish meaning; and,
- Preparing graduates to be leaders of integrity, social responsibility, and architects of change.

KEY STATISTICS

Founded: 1979

Location: 56-acre campus, bordered by open spaces and overlooking the Pacific Ocean

Students: 600 students in preschool through Grade 12

Accreditation: Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), and the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS)

Associations: National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS); California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS); National Business Officers Association (NBOA); Jewish Federation of San Diego County; KEN Jewish Community; Prizmah, Center for Jewish Day Schools

Operating budget: \$13,000,000

Financial aid and scholarships: Over \$2,000,000 awarded to 30% of SDJA students

Website: www.sdja.com



THE SCHOOL: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

A little over 36 years ago, a remarkable group of leaders had a vision of creating the first (and only) pluralistic Jewish day school in San Diego. With their hard work and unwavering passion, their dream became a reality, and San Diego Jewish Academy began its journey.

A little over 18 years ago, leaders in the SDJA school community had a vision of creating a new, permanent home for the Academy. With the same hard work and unwavering passion their dream, too, became a reality. Students and teachers enthusiastically arrived for their first day of school in the fall 2000 to begin their journey on a beautiful 56-acre campus in Carmel Valley.

The world has changed dramatically since SDJA's Jaffe campus was built in 2000 and will continue to do so. SDJA knows that both the present and future demand a physical campus and academic program that foster creativity and innovation. In 2017, a new Campus Master Plan was developed specifically to achieve that goal.

Fresh from a very successful accreditation process and from a position of significant institutional strength, San Diego Jewish Academy is now ready to move to the next, exciting stage in its development, one which is focused upon ensuring that graduates are equipped to participate and thrive in a future that for sure will be very different from the present.



At left, an artist's rendering of part of the new Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Thinking.

The Innovation Suite will be an ideation space, not merely a maker or fabrication lab. The Center will have flexibly designed zones to support STEAM projects, entrepreneurial initiatives, faculty training, and partnerships with external organizations.

The Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Thinking will ensure a curriculum that brings creativity, innovation, and the culture of entrepreneurialism alive within the school. It will be known as the new heart of the campus. It will serve a wide range of ages and create a continuum to connect divisions, programs and adjacent spaces. It will comprise an indoor "Innovation Suite" and an outdoor courtyard for exterior project activities.

LAUNCHING THE CENTER: NEXT YEAR & BEYOND

The Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Thinking represents a new vision and a transformative opportunity for San Diego Jewish Academy. Although the Center is in the early stages of ideation, with the right first director it will quickly become a major and lasting part of the academic fabric of the school. As such, the school seeks a director who is excited about implementing a new center within the context of a recently drafted strategic plan but without an exact roadmap.

In many schools, one of the challenges in launching a new center is the lack of physical space. For the new director, this will not be a problem. SDJA has been transitioning the library, which will become the initial physical home for the Center. Positioned in the heart of the campus, this space will be the perfect resource for an imaginative director, offering an open layout, natural lighting, and centralized connectivity to all three divisions.

Initially, the Center will house a re-branded technology department, which will fall under the supervision of the director. The technology program at SDJA includes both information services and instructional design services. Several teachers contribute formally and informally as part-time



integration specialists and instructional designers. The school would like to increase the number of these opportunities after a director is hired. In addition, the school has partnered with outside coaches who work with groups of teachers to explore emerging teaching methods and innovative tools.

But the initial space will offer a director opportunity to explore ideas far beyond instructional technology services. It could be a place to run a speaker series, hold symposia, or launch a summer institute. It could be a place to facilitate maker and design challenges. It could be a place that links students to life-changing internship experiences. It could be a place to offer coding and development workshops, in partnership with outside organizations. It could be a place for students to meet entrepreneurs and innovators in the greater San Diego area and contribute to the design thinking process of new products and services. It could be a place that connects on-campus educators with off-campus researchers. With the right imagination, the possibilities are practically limitless.

The director will play a pivotal role in leading SDJA on an exciting journey of curricular innovation and entrepreneurial exploration. The director will be asked to develop opportunities for faculty professional growth, in disciplines such as educational technology and instructional design. At the same time, the director will be encouraged and empowered to establish external partnerships with universities, think tanks, research institutions, and innovative companies. The goals of these external partnerships would be not only extend student learning opportunities outside the traditional classroom, but also to inspire faculty to reimagine a new paradigm for SDJA teaching and learning.

The Center is a major strategic initiative for the school, and the entire leadership team is committed to its success. A new strategic plan, *A Vision of 2020*, has been adopted by the board. A capital campaign is in the works, with the Center serving as one of the signature



fundraising components. Over time, the director will play a key role in the donor campaign. But in parallel, these early years will be the perfect time for a creative director to experiment without constraint, assessing how the school might grow the Center and expand its impact across the campus.

Beyond the leadership team, the director will find support and resources throughout

SDJA. The lower and upper school division directors have been engaged in technology and innovation initiatives for several years, and they both enjoy tremendous support among faculty for their thoughtful leadership. For years, teachers from each division have participated in formal innovation working committees to explore, launch, and evaluate emerging technologies and new teaching methods. The school has a solid network infrastructure and uses Canvas, one of the most respected learning management systems in the K-12 market. In all, the school is excited and ready for a major transformation, and the entire community eagerly anticipates the arrival of the Center's first director in July.

QUOTE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

"San Diego Jewish Academy is ready for a leader who can bring innovation and entrepreneurial thinking to the forefront of our academic program. We want to offer students projects and experiences that encourage unconventional approaches to problem solving and prepare our students for an ever-changing and increasingly evolving workplace."

Chaim Heller, Head of School

DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURIAL THINKING

SPECIFIC DUTIES

Promote a culture of curricular innovation

- Design, deliver, and manage major professional development and growth experiences for faculty in areas of curricular innovation
- Establish strong partnerships with members of the faculty to explore new instructional methods, innovative technologies, and externally-focused learning opportunities for students
- Run on-campus workshops, trainings, clubs, design challenges, and other similar experiences for teachers and students for the purpose of promoting innovation, risk taking, and entrepreneurialism

Oversee instructional and information technology services

- Supervise the technology faculty and staff
- Evaluate emerging technologies, and guide senior academic leaders on strategic and operational decisions involving instructional technology hardware and software
- Ensure the successful delivery of information and infrastructure technology services

Develop external partnerships focused on innovation and entrepreneurialism

- Participate in the local, national, and international communities of academic innovation, entrepreneurialism, educational technology, and innovation design
- Establish partnerships with research institutes, universities, local companies, and other organizations to develop experiential learning opportunities for students and enhanced pedagogical resources for faculty

General

- Serve on academic, operational, innovation, and technology committees at all levels of the school: board, senior leadership, divisional, and student
- Develop and maintain departmental budgets, policies, and procedures
- Other duties as assigned

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND PERSONAL QUALITIES

San Diego Jewish Academy is looking for candidates who can demonstrate:

- Experience as a director or coordinator of innovation, technology, instructional design, design thinking, or professional development at a school; a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university is a minimum requirement, though a graduate degree in innovation, technology, instructional design, educational leadership, or related field is highly desirable
- A successful history of designing, implementing, and improving a broad spectrum of professional development experiences for educators
- Experience proposing, piloting, assessing, and managing new strategic initiatives in a school, with a particular focus on areas of technology and innovation
- A proven track record of establishing partnerships between schools and external organizations, for the purpose of enhancing both traditional classroom teaching and experiential student learning
- Experience as a supervisor and organizational leader, including: direct personnel management, project management, staff development and training, and committee leadership
- A passion for educational technology, instructional design, pedagogical innovation, and professional growth, and a capacity to instill that passion in others
- Capacity to oversee a school's technology department
- Excellent relational and communication skills
- A collaborative, cooperative, and patient mindset.
- Visionary leadership aligned with the needs of a dynamic and diverse faculty and staff.



HOW TO APPLY

Ed Tech Recruiting is acting on behalf of San Diego Jewish Academy to recruit exceptional professionals to fill this extraordinary opportunity.

PLEASE DIRECT ANY INQUIRIES TO:

Gabriel Lucas
Principal, Ed Tech Recruiting
gabe@edtechrecruiting.com

APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED THROUGH JANUARY 15, 2018.

Candidates should send the following four separate PDF attachments to jobs@edtechrecruiting.com:

- Cover letter introducing yourself to the San Diego Jewish Academy search committee
- CV or résumé
- A list of at least four professional references (include each person's name, organization, title, phone number, email, and relationship with you — though we will not contact any references without obtaining your permission first)
- Statement of educational philosophy that addresses the following prompt:

Propose a three-year roadmap for how you would ideate, launch, iterate, and grow the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Thinking at San Diego Jewish Academy. Talk about one specific school program or initiative that you have led, and how the lessons from that experience would be relevant to you in this role at SDJA.

