



Columbia Christian

FAITH • CHARACTER • ACADEMICS

Our Mission: To provide a Christ-centered education focused on excellence in faith, character, and academics.

PRINCIPAL SEARCH

Opportunity Profile

Overview

Columbia Christian School's Principal serves as chief academic officer with overall responsibility to the Principal for planning, development, implementation, assessment, and improvement of academic programs and policies. The Principal's prime responsibilities are to assure that the academic program of the school is consistently focused on the school mission; that instruction is Christ-centered and follows developed curriculum documents; that faculty and staff members are supported in their positions and held to a high level of character and professional performance; that students are nurtured and held to a high level of expectation in behavior and in academics; that the school climate is positive, devoted to excellence, and Christ-centered, and that curriculum and instruction are continuously updated and improved to more clearly reflect the biblical worldview and the most effective instructional practices.

The Principal reports to the President.

Recognizing the educational challenges of the 21st century, the Principal will:

- Place the highest priority on leading students to know and love God, helping them to develop a Christian worldview, and enabling them to recognize and develop their God-given talents
- Address and meet the challenges facing Christian education while enhancing Columbia's commitment to her 70-year tradition of spiritual and academic excellence
- Cultivate an excellent and cohesive faculty
- Support implementation of the strategic plan
- Conserve and maximize the School's finances and resources
- Support Columbia's diverse community and culture of inclusiveness



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THE PRINCIPAL'S ROLE

Place the highest priority on leading students to know and love God, develop a Christian worldview, and recognize and develop their God-given talents

The Principal will ensure that every dimension of the school from the academic curriculum to the extracurricular programs are designed, evaluated, and continually improved to provide students with a strong foundation for Christian faith and to equip them to use their God-given gifts for life-long Christian leadership and service.

Address and meet the challenges facing Christian education while enhancing Columbia's commitment to her 70-year tradition of spiritual and academic excellence

The Principal must navigate the rapidly changing educational environment and work with the administrative team and faculty to address and meet these challenges while maintaining the school's commitment to Christ-centered education. S/He will assure that the school's academic program is rigorous and challenging, inspiring students to fully develop their God-given intellectual, emotional, and spiritual capacities.

Cultivate an excellent and cohesive faculty

The Principal is responsible for maintaining and improving teacher excellence through a careful recruiting process, training in Christian worldview, and faculty/staff development.

Support implementation of the strategic plan

The Principal is responsible for implementing the academic vision of the school's strategic plan and working with the President in order to update it annually and re-envision it every three to five years. The current plan places highest priority on leadership toward improving academic outcomes.

Conserve and maximize the School's finances and resources

The Principal must use budget and fiscal management skills to aid the President in maximizing resources to carry out the school mission and maintain affordability for students.

Support Columbia Christian's diverse community and culture of inclusiveness.

The Principal will embrace students and families from diverse experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives and will work to create and maintain a welcoming environment that enables the school to achieve its mission among all its students.



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Expectations and Requirements

Christian Commitment

CCS's Principal must have a mature and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ and will be a member in good standing in a local congregation of the Churches of Christ. The preferred candidate will be able to effectively articulate his or her faith and a worldview consistent with CCS's Statement of Faith and will demonstrate personal faith through a life marked by a strong Christian character and a passion for living out his or her faith daily.

Professional Expectations

CCS's Principal will articulate and demonstrate a calling for work in Christian education and a commitment to the integration of faith and learning. He or she will support CCS's Mission, Faith Statement, and Education Philosophy, as well as all policies and procedures established by the CCS board and the CCS President.

Strong leadership skills are required. Education and successful teaching and leadership experience in the K-12 educational environment is highly preferred. The preferred candidate also will demonstrate existing or developing strengths in strategic planning, financial management / budgeting, and marketing.

The preferred candidate will demonstrate a commitment to study and understand CCS's history and distinctiveness in order to move the organization towards a successful future consistent with its historical character.

Educational Requirements

A bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in educational leadership or administration from an accredited college or university are minimum requirements; a degree from a Christian college or university is preferred.

Position Description

A detailed position description is attached.



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Candidacy Process

On behalf of the entire Columbia Christian School community, thank you for your interest in the search for our next Principal. Please join us in prayer for the work being done in the lives of our students, and for God's leading in finding the right person to be our next Principal. If you believe that your gifts and experiences are a match for the leadership role of our next Principal, we invite you to begin the inquiry process. All candidate information will be handled confidentially. Contact Marquita Moss, Interim President, mmoss@columbiachristian.com, for more information or to ask questions. To be considered for this position, please submit the material below.

- 1. Your current resume or CV**
- 2. Please respond to the following questions, in writing.**
 - a. Please describe your personal journey to faith in Jesus Christ. How has that affected your personal worldview, your day-to-day life, and your career?
 - b. Why do you support Christian education? What do you see as the significant challenges and opportunities for Christian schools going forward?
 - c. CCS is deeply committed to fully integrating faith and learning. Please explain what that concept means to you and share your thoughts about CCS's commitment.
 - d. Leaders have different strengths and skill sets – what are yours? What is your philosophy of leadership?
- 3. Please provide names and contact information (telephone and e-mail addresses) for at least four (4) references who know you and your qualifications for the role of CCS's Principal well enough to comment on your suitability for this position.** At least two must be references with whom you have worked in a professional education role and two must be Christian character references. References will be contacted only after we have requested and received your permission to do so.

Please submit this information by e-mail to Marquita Moss, Interim President, at SearchCommittee@ColumbiaChristian.com.

Candidates will be interviewed by Mrs. Moss and Ami Vensel, Columbia's President Elect, who will assume the presidency on September 1, 2019. Mrs. Vensel will select the new Principal.

Again, thank you for your prayerful consideration of this opportunity! We look forward to hearing from you.



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FAITH STATEMENT

Columbia Christian School is associated with the Churches of Christ and is guided by the Holy Bible, particularly Christ's teachings in the New Testament. Columbia Christian Schools accepts the following as the core of Christian faith.

1. There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: the Father, creator and sustainer of all that is; the Son, existing from eternity as the Word, who became a man being born of a virgin, lived a life of sinless perfection, confirmed his word by miracles, died for our sins, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven where he reigns as Lord and King, and will come again in judgment; the Holy Spirit, given to all believers as the indwelling, sanctifying presence of God.
2. Men and women, through sin, are separated from God and are utterly unable to save themselves.
3. Salvation is the unearned gift of God to all who place their trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through repentance and baptism.
4. The church, being composed of all baptized believers, is to be Christ's presence in the world, witnessing to his Lordship, teaching his word and serving in his name.
5. The scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the divinely inspired written record of God's work and word, and they are sufficient for faith and practice.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Columbia Christian Schools believes education is an opportunity to demonstrate love for God. As Jesus instructs his disciples, humans are to love God with all of their minds, as well as their hearts, souls and strength (Matthew 22:37).

The education God desires, furthermore, is an education steeped in truth and the fear of the Lord. Scripture instructs humans that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:7), and Jesus declares, "I am the way, the truth and the life" (John. 14:6). Columbia Christian Schools centers its curriculum, therefore, around Bible classes at all levels and an integration of scriptural truth in all subjects.

Further, Columbia Christian believes a complete education provides students not only knowledge but also the tools to acquire knowledge, the tools of learning. In this case, Columbia Christian instructs students in critical thinking through reading, writing, analytical assignments, and classroom discussions.

Finally, Columbia Christian Schools believes a complete education incorporates mental as well as physical, social and spiritual instruction. The curriculum CCS offers provides opportunities for exercise of the mind as well as the body, for individual as well as corporate study, for spiritual as well as social growth.

