



**KING**  
**SCHOOL**

Head of Lower School Search

**King School**

Stamford, Connecticut

July 1, 2020



## King School: Head of Lower School Search

King School in Stamford, CT is a school where students are inspired to discover and forge their unique paths to excellence by a program that is project-based and challenging, a faculty that is experienced and dedicated, and a community that is diverse, warm, and ambitious. **The Head of Lower School position offers an exciting, dynamic opportunity to lead an innovative division; build on a solid foundation of success; promote excellence in early childhood and elementary education locally, regionally, and nationally; and serve as a member of a dynamic leadership team at a school that is on the move.**

King is the convergence of three founding schools – Low-Heywood, King, and Thomas – that from the beginning shared similar educational missions. The School's origins date back to the founding of Low-Heywood in 1865. The founding institutions, each with rich histories and cultures, have come together into today's cohesive King School community that embraces and celebrates its traditions and values.

The emphasis on scholarship and character that is inherited from all of the founding institutions is articulated in the School's mission:

*King is dedicated to preparing its students to thrive in a rapidly changing world.*

*We provide an excellent, progressive education, grounded in the traditional disciplines of the arts and sciences, committed to nurturing of individual potential, and designed to promote critical thinking and reasoned reflection. Using rich and innovative methods, our teachers facilitate each student's fullest academic and personal achievement. We champion the development of character, self-confidence, and talent through challenging intellectual, creative, athletic, leadership, and service opportunities.*

*King believes that individual accomplishment must go hand in hand with respect for others. Our culture of respect fosters collaboration as well as independence. We embrace human and cultural diversity. We value responsible citizenship.*

*King graduates are well equipped to succeed in college and to pursue lives on ongoing inquiry, learning, accomplishment, personal fulfillment, and social responsibility.*



## King School: Head of Lower School Search



### THE LOWER SCHOOL

Thanks to strong leadership and focused work over the last few years, the Lower School has developed a clear identity and direction in PreKindergarten through Grade 5. Faculty ensure that each student builds the skills and confidence necessary to be successful as they move through Lower School into Middle and Upper Schools and beyond. King's Lower School curriculum balances an academic program that reflects an understanding of the developmental needs of children by providing both inspiration and challenge. The program is interactive and hands-on and nurtures a love of learning and working with others. Responsive Classroom practices are a perfect fit at King and are used throughout the Lower School as a student-centered approach to teaching and discipline.

Indeed, as a faculty member describes, the King Lower School has “put a stake in the ground for student-centered learning experiences” – both because it reflects best practices and because that approach distinguishes the School from many of its competitors in the local independent school

market. The Lower School is leading the way with its emphasis on project-based learning, especially with the addition of a Reggio Emilia-inspired program in the PreK and Kindergarten this year. Students are encouraged to identify topics they would like to study to leverage and extend their natural curiosity, while teachers clearly articulate and guide students toward learning goals focused on language, early literacy development, math, and science. All agree that the Reggio approach is well matched to King's mission and ethos. The elementary years are similarly interactive and hands-on. Students thrive in the challenging academic program within a culture that reflects the King Virtues: integrity, kindness, perseverance, and respect. Students are deeply known by faculty who are able to, as one parent put it, “push and pull” them to be their best selves as students in the classroom and citizens of the world. King uses the Columbia Teachers College Reading and Writing Workshop and TERC Investigations programs as foundations of its curriculum.



## King School: Head of Lower School Search

More detail can about King’s thoughtfully designed and skillfully delivered Lower School curriculum can be found on the School’s [website](#).

King sets a better standard by creating an environment that elevates joy, wonder, and creativity. The faculty is vital to cultivating that joyful, child-centered culture that deeply respects the developmental stages of childhood. Experienced and passionate, the faculty are committed to their students and the School’s mission. While focused on the unique needs of PK-5 students, faculty appreciate being part of a larger school community and the benefits that provides them as professionals. The culture among faculty is supportive, professional, and characterized by high expectations of each other as well as of their students. Recognizing the importance of the “staffulty” (the inclusive term used at King for all colleagues on the staff and faculty) to the success of King’s programs and students, the School’s most recent Strategic Plan (adopted in December 2019) calls for a continued, substantial commitment to staffulty professional development to ensure that they stay inspired and on the leading edge of teaching and learning.

King’s beautiful campus covers 34 acres in suburban Stamford. The Lower School building includes bright, spacious classrooms, a large library, dining room, playgrounds, and a Makerspace. The larger campus includes separate Middle and Upper School buildings, a state-of-the-art Innovation Lab, Performing Arts Center, art studios, gymnasiums, and several playing fields. The flexible, meticulously maintained facility is purpose-built for the needs of King’s students.



## King School: Head of Lower School Search



**The Head of Lower School leads and advances important initiatives.** King has a clearly articulated mission and vision and the Head of Lower School is charged with moving it forward. While the commitment to project-based learning and Responsive Classroom is relatively new, all colleagues feel that this is the right direction - both because these approaches are good for children and because they are a differentiator in the market. At the same time, the School is excited for new ideas and energy around which

the division can continue to improve and further develop its reputation for excellence.

### THE NEXT HEAD OF LOWER SCHOOL

**King seeks a leader who exhibits a disciplined and optimistic approach to leadership, a commitment to a culture of collaboration within the Lower School and with the other divisions, and effective communication with students, staff, parents, and prospective families.** The Head of Lower School should have extensive experience in early childhood and elementary education, a deep love of children, and deep respect for teachers. King's administrative structure gives division leaders significant autonomy. While acting as a passionate advocate for the Lower School, it is also important to be in touch with the needs of the School overall and work effectively with the other divisions. The Head of Lower School will work in close collaboration and enjoy a mentoring relationship with Head of School Dr. Karen Eshoo.

**King seeks a Head of Lower School who will be a passionate advocate for early childhood and elementary education in the community.** With increasing pressure on Lower School enrollment in elementary schools across the country, there is opportunity for the next division leader to be seen as an expert and resource beyond the boundaries of the campus, providing much appreciated insights for local parents and increased reach for the School.





## King School: Head of Lower School Search

**The Head of Lower School sets the tone in the division, is committed to the mission and academic excellence, and cultivates a joyful environment for children.** The Head of Lower School must be approachable, collaborative, transparent, and able to project a seriousness of purpose, warmth, and a sense of fun as appropriate with students, staff, parents, and prospective families.



**The Head of Lower School is a member of the Leadership Team and reports directly to the Head of School.** The successful candidate will have a vision for what makes an excellent PK-5 program; the interpersonal and communication skills to build trust with staff, parents, and fellow administrators in service of that vision; and the strategic leadership skills to bring that vision to life. This is a unique opportunity to lead an extraordinary program.



### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Oversee and lead all functions of the Lower School, including student life and parent communication;
- Supervise, support, direct professional development, and evaluate staff in the Lower School;
- Support and implement the furtherance of King's Strategic Plan;
- Oversee and manage the Lower School budget;
- Work collaboratively with the Admission team to promote and grow the Lower School;
- Recruit and hire all positions in Lower School;
- Keep current with research on early childhood and elementary education by attending conferences and maintaining memberships in professional organizations;
- With the Leadership Team, help articulate King's program, culture, and values to all constituents.

# King School: Head of Lower School Search

## THE IDEAL CANDIDATE SHOULD MEET THESE REQUIREMENTS

- 5+ years of progressive experience in primary schools that demonstrates leadership in providing a high-quality learning environment for students that reflects understanding of progressive, differentiated, and developmentally aligned models of teaching and learning and a positive work culture for staffulty;
- Bachelor's degree, Master's preferred;
- Ability to develop, articulate, and direct a clear vision for a Lower School
- Ability to prioritize multiple projects and tasks in a fast-paced work environment, including the ability to delegate tasks and responsibilities;
- Ability to have and maintain excellent judgment and discretion, especially in regard to issues of confidentiality;
- Demonstrate significant experience in professional supervision and development;
- Strong capacity in cross-cultural competence, the ability to communicate, collaborate, and educate across varied cultures of our diverse learning community;
- Demonstrated administrative experience or coursework in administration preferred;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.



## APPLICATION PROCESS

King School has retained Tony Featherston [tfeatherston@RG175.com](mailto:tfeatherston@RG175.com) from Resource Group 175 to lead the search for its next Head of Lower School. To apply, please go to: <https://rg175.com/candidate/signup>. Please note that required references will not be contacted until a candidate communicates their approval to do so later in the process.

**Application Deadline:** FEBRUARY 21, 2020