



STUART HALL
SCHOOL *for* BOYS

Middle School Head

SEARCH PROSPECTUS



STUART HALL SCHOOL FOR BOYS

NEW ORLEANS, LA

www.stuarthall.org

START DATE – JULY 2022



***“Education
is formation,
not just
information.”***



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Stuart Hall School for Boys is to live the words of Catholic educator Janet Erskine Stuart, R.S.C.J., “Education is formation, not just information.” The faculty and staff are dedicated to working with parents to help each child build a foundation for a life centered on a love for learning, a desire to help others, and a commitment to Gospel values.

OVERVIEW

Founded in 1984, Stuart Hall School for Boys is the only independent Catholic school of its kind in New Orleans. Since its founding, this PK3-7th grade school's guiding principle has informed its focus: “Education is formation, not just information.” To this end, the school focuses equally on the development of each student's faith, scholarship, leadership, and honor. The values-based program includes an impressive accelerated learning curriculum, a dedicated and talented faculty, strong family connections, and a low student-teacher ratio — all matched with a deep understanding of the developmental needs of boys. These qualities have contributed to building a school community that is both welcoming and closely connected and has given rise to an extraordinary spirit that is evident in all areas of the school. Stuart Hall families are proud of their school and are extremely supportive.

Visitors to campus are immediately struck by a palpable energy and pride. This is an impressive school, one well-situated for continued success under the recently appointed Head of School, Mr. Brian Moscona.

In his first year of leadership at Stuart Hall, Mr. Moscona has earnestly begun the development of a high-functioning leadership team in all domains. One critical area will be the school's next director of the Middle School division, which comprises grades 5 - 7.

The successful candidate will be an experienced educational leader devoted to the school's mission and programs. Stuart Hall's Middle School Head has oversight of all organizational activities in this division and must continue to foster a climate of excellence and focused formation among students, faculty, and staff whom he/she will oversee. This is an exceptional opportunity to be a part of an attractive and unique model of Catholic education dedicated to the formation of boys aspiring to become great young men.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

"Stuart Hall began as a dream in my heart," declared William Gallop, the school's founding Headmaster. In the early 1980s, following 12 years as Headmaster at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in New Orleans, Mr. Gallop felt the call to create a new school that would fill a need that had not previously been met in New Orleans. His vision was to offer a Catholic education for boys in an independent, preparatory-school environment. He named the school for Catholic educator Janet Erskine Stuart, who wrote extensively of a philosophy of education espousing faith, scholarship, leadership, and honor — qualities upon which the Stuart Hall education is built.

At the start, the school leased classroom space at the Annunciation Episcopal Church property on South Claiborne Avenue in New Orleans, opening its doors for the 1984-1985 school year to 63 students and 10 faculty and staff members. The oldest boys were in first grade and would go on to become the first graduating class of Stuart Hall in 1991. In 1997, Kevin Avin was named Headmaster, just the second in the school's history, and served in this capacity until his retirement in 2021. In spring 2021, the Board appointed Mr. Brian Moscona as the school's third leader. Mr. Moscona brings a wealth of Catholic educational leadership experience and is a product of a boys-only high school environment.

Stuart Hall has been at its present location on South Carrollton Avenue since 1988 and currently owns the campus in its entirety. In 2004, the Whelan Early Childhood Center was opened, and in 2005, the new Multi-Purpose Building and Gymnasium was completed. In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina flooded three of the school's main buildings but, emblematic of the family and community support the school enjoys, the school was operational by that November – a miraculous achievement.

FAST FACTS



355

students enrolled



67

faculty and staff members



In 2013, Stuart Hall celebrated its 30th year with near capacity enrollment of 338 students — and with an eye on future growth as a leading 21st-century school in the Catholic tradition. Today the school is fully enrolled with waitlists and enjoys the reputation in the city as the pre-eminent school to educate and form young boys.

Stuart Hall is formally accredited as a member of the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS). Since 2003, the Archdiocese of New Orleans has recognized Stuart Hall as an independent Catholic school governed by a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees. The school is also an active member of the International Boys' School Coalition and the National Association of Independent Schools.

THE SCHOOL'S PHILOSOPHY

Stuart Hall is a family school with a strong values-based curriculum. Four key values inform the school's educational philosophy: Faith, Scholarship, Leadership, and Honor.

- **Faith** – The Stuart Hall graduate holds with deep conviction that God loves him. He knows the major doctrines and devotions of the Catholic Church, and he takes seriously the mandate of Christ that, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren, you do to Me."
- **Scholarship** – The Stuart Hall graduate exhibits a love of learning that will last a lifetime. He values learning as transformative. He understands that mastery of academic subjects forms a firm foundation for further growth as he moves forward to the next levels in his education.





FAST FACTS



82%

Catholic students



50%

faculty with advanced degrees



15%

of students receive financial aid

- **Leadership** – The Stuart Hall graduate understands the true meaning of his school's motto, Leaders for Life. Students are afforded many leadership opportunities in student government, academic and athletic teams, and the arts. He is called to a richer, fuller, higher life within. He is destined for some special work for God, which will remain undone unless he does it.
- **Honor** – The Stuart Hall graduate realizes that honor is the keystone of character development. He understands the values that he holds, and he will act accordingly, even when it is difficult.

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

To support the students at this critical phase of their growth and development, the Middle School experience provides an atmosphere that inculcates self-discovery, self-awareness, and magnanimity. The boys in the Middle School have abundant opportunities to grow their leadership skills and be role models and mentors to the younger students at Stuart Hall. In addition, the students mature from concrete learners to abstract ones through a robust academic program enriched with specialization classes in art, library, music, physical education, computer, Spanish and Latin.

In the Middle School arts program, the students continue to build upon the elements and principles of art introduced in the Lower School while developing a more in-depth understanding of how past and present artists, artistic movements, and cultures influence our society. Through these studies, the boys are encouraged to develop their own aesthetic perceptions and expressions through a variety of 2D and 3D media. The Middle School

FAST FACTS



\$250k

need-based aid
awarded annually



1984

established date

music program highlights the creativity and energy of boys by exposing them to the foundations of the World Music Drumming Program. This program gives students the opportunity to express themselves and learn how to improvise on percussion instruments. Throughout the curriculum, students continue to sing and perform for First Fridays, Masses, and special programs. The school also presents a musical production in alternating years.

The Middle School athletic program at Stuart Hall School for Boys focuses on healthy lifelong habits of physical activity while also helping boys develop their athletic skills and learn sportsmanship and teamwork. The school operates an ambitious program that involves a majority of the students. The program takes full advantage of the numerous athletic venues that are in close proximity to the school. In addition to myriad opportunities for physical education and free play on the spacious play yards, the school offers competitive sports. Sports teams, many of which have won numerous league titles, include cross-country, swimming, flag football, soccer, tennis, basketball, baseball, golf, and track and field.

The Middle School boys are presented with several opportunities to develop their leadership skills and service to others. The Stuart Hall Knights Program provides a structure for the Middle School boys to develop and be recognized for the school virtues of Faith, Scholarship, Leadership, and Honor. The program includes a system of recognition for exemplary knightly behavior and a formal ceremony for eligible 7th graders to be inducted as Knights. The Middle School boys can be elected to the Round Table, the student government for Stuart Hall. There are representatives from each Middle School grade, and they lead a number of school events to raise money that is donated to deserving charities selected by the students.



ABOUT THE POSITION

Stuart Hall is a recognized school of excellence for young men seeking a rigorous independent Catholic school education. The next Middle School Head will be charged with understanding and embracing the underlying values that form the basis of the school's mission and refining the Middle School years to be a best-in-class formation experience for the students in grades 5-7. The next Middle School Head will be expected to raise the Middle School profile in the local community and foster mission-aligned innovation in academic and extracurricular programming. The next Middle School Head will need to be a dynamic and inspiring leader who will join the energy, professionalism, and high aspirations of the current leadership team at a pre-eminent Catholic boys' school.

In particular, the next Middle School Head should be mindful of the following opportunities and challenges:

- Retention of students from the Lower School to the Middle School
- Issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion as they relate to the student body and faculty cohort
- Developmentally appropriate strategies and practices for middle school learners and the teachers who work with them





In particular, the Middle School Head will have primary responsibilities in the following key areas:

- Lead the cohort of faculty in grades 5 - 7, including recruitment, selection, hiring, onboarding, training, mentoring, and evaluation of division personnel.
- Oversee the curriculum and extracurricular offerings, identifying opportunities for growth, and leading the division through a disciplined process of continuous improvement.
- Serve as the primary coordinator for all aspects of spiritual formation for the Middle School including chapel, mentoring, prayer, retreats, and service opportunities.
- Provide support to students and families during the challenging middle school years.
- Serve on a dynamic and forward-focused leadership team.
- Develop, prepare and manage the divisional budget.

QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

As the leader of the school's Middle School program, the Head of this division needs to be an experienced, academic leader with a deep understanding and appreciation for the challenges middle school students—and their parents—are facing today.

In addition, the following qualities and qualifications will be expected:

- An understanding of and commitment to the mission, values, goals, and strategies of Stuart Hall School for Boys
- An understanding of customer service commitment and a servant leadership attitude.

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- Outstanding written and oral communication skills.
 - Strong public presentation skills, especially using digital tools.
 - An ability to interact comfortably with individuals of diverse social, economic, and ethnic backgrounds.
 - An ability to initiate tasks and follow through seeing them to completion.
 - An ability to assess and solve problems, including interpersonal conflict.
 - Well-developed leadership skills, including wisdom, executive presence, talent recruiting and development, and negotiation skills necessary to work collaboratively with multiple constituencies.
 - Capacity to deal with multiple tasks as well as to wisely set priorities.
 - Excellent written, verbal, and non-verbal communication skills.
 - Attention to detail with disciplined follow up and follow through.
 - Capacity to create conditions for maximum motivation and engagement among faculty and students.
 - Familiarity with best practices in adolescent development and programming.
 - Master's or higher degree in education, school leadership, curriculum, or related program of study.
 - Five or more years of classroom experience; Catholic school experience preferred.
 - Experience in school administration, including supervisory experience.
 - Detail-oriented and a high level of integrity and work ethic.





ABOUT THE AREA

The Stuart Hall campus takes up much of a quiet city block in the Carrollton Historic District of New Orleans, close to Tulane University, Loyola University, Xavier University, and a number of other independent schools. The neighborhood consists of beautiful live oak tree-lined streets and historic homes.

The Mississippi River is a dozen blocks to the southwest of the campus. The famous street cars of New Orleans pass in front of the school. The buildings, mostly stucco with red tile roofs, include the Main Administrative Building, the Van Vrancken Chapel, the Whelan Early Childhood Center, the Lower School Building, the Middle School Building and Gymnasium, and the Admissions, Development, and Business Office building, along with a variety of outdoor play spaces. The Board of Trustees and staff of the school have successfully created a cohesive and attractive campus in one of the most appealing areas of the city. The campus is welcoming and, at the same time, extremely safe.

The city of New Orleans is well-known for its unique Creole culture, including a vibrant live-music scene and exceptional cuisine — reflecting its history as a melting pot of French, African, Spanish, and American cultures. In fact, the city has been called the “most unique” city in America, owing in large part to this cross-cultural and multilingual heritage.

Since Hurricane Katrina in 2005, major redevelopment has led to the city's rebound. In 2006, the population fell to around 233,000. Now just under 400,000, New Orleans can claim to be thriving once again — as the most populous city in Louisiana and as a major port on the Gulf of Mexico. The region accounts for a significant portion of the nation's oil refining and petrochemical production and serves as a corporate and operational base for onshore and offshore petroleum and natural gas production.

New Orleans is also a center for higher learning, with more than 50,000 students enrolled in the region's 11 two- and four-year degree-granting institutions, including the nearby Tulane University, Loyola University, and Xavier University. More visible than any other sector, however, is New Orleans' tourist and convention industry, which is a \$5.5 billion industry that accounts for 40% of city tax revenues annually. As a place to live, New Orleans is attractive for its lively culture, eclectic architecture, excellent restaurants, and institutions of higher education, as well as for its numerous independent schools.

For sports fans, the city is home to the NFL's New Orleans Saints, the NBA's New Orleans Pelicans, and new rugby and soccer teams. The city also offers a vibrant arts community. Beyond the popular French Quarter, the city is home to some impressive museums including the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, the Contemporary Arts Center, the National World War II Museum, and a new state-of-the-art Children's Museum. Residents will also tell you that New Orleans is rich in Southern hospitality — a place of closely connected neighborhoods where people embrace the best of the city's history and unique culture and take care of each other.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The search committee is on a fast-track to identify and secure the next Middle School Head of Stuart Hall. All inquiries and applications will be treated with the highest degree of confidentiality and with the greatest respect.

The successful candidate will be expected to assume the responsibilities of the position in July 2022. Do not delay. Connect with us today!

- To apply, please submit the following four documents, confidentially and as separate PDF attachments.
 - » Letter of Interest that aligns your experiences and skill sets with the current needs of the school as you understand them.
 - » Statement of Catholic educational leadership philosophy.
 - » Current resume with all appropriate dates included.
 - » List of five references with names, relationships, phone numbers, and email addresses. References will not be contacted without your knowledge and approval.
- Please include "Stuart Hall School - Middle School Head" in the subject field.



Assemble all of the application materials in one email to:

Kyle Pietrantonio, Partner
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