



The
Frederick
Gunn
School

ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL LIFE

gogunn.org | Washington, CT

The Frederick Gunn School, founded in 1850, is a co-ed boarding and day school for students in grades 9–12 as well as a post-graduate year. Mr. Gunn had a deep appreciation for the natural world, believing that in nature students understand themselves as humans and their place in the world. He took a principled stand against slavery and spurred students (and the town at large) to examine their beliefs. In addition to the habits and skills students will need in college and life beyond, we teach them to follow Mr. Gunn’s example: to cultivate wisdom, to be trailblazers, to act with conviction, and to value character as highly as intellect and achievement.

Our continuous focus on moral character development intentionally engages all members of our school in the work of creating an inclusive and equitable living and learning ecosystem. Community and citizenship are at the heart of our aspiration to both social justice and academic excellence, with individual diversity integral to the strength of that community. When we embrace difference and pursue school life with respect, equity, and compassion, we build a foundation for engaged citizens.

In keeping with the tenets of our founder Frederick Gunn, who was himself a prominent abolitionist and progressive educator, The Frederick Gunn School seeks to provide a pluralistic learning environment for all inclusive of (but not limited to): culture, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, national origin, learning differences, physical difference, political affiliation, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic differences.

We invite applicants who resonate with our mission and who will foster an environment of cultural and intellectual richness and an active participant in advancing equity and inclusion.

Summary

Residential Life is the *sine qua non* of any boarding school—it is the “boarding” in “boarding school.” Schools have a responsibility to leverage this unique aspect of our model—the fact that the students and faculty live on campus, share space, and that the learning portion of the day extends beyond the classroom, arts, athletics, and the dining hall to encompass the entirety of a

student's experience. Taking full advantage of this model requires intentional leadership of the adults and students who create this part of the school's culture—house parents, in particular, but also other adults on duty in the evenings as well as student Residential Advisors. At The Frederick Gunn School, the Assistant Dean of Students for Residential Life is the person who provides this leadership.

The Assistant Dean of Students of Residential Life is a leader and a collaborator within the school community. The role requires collaborating with the Academic Office and others to identify and jointly achieve the school's aims for evening culture—everything from the conclusion of co-curriculars through lights out. Students use that time for academic preparation, of course, but also for building social relationships, pursuing interests through clubs, and general play. These hours and pursuits fall under the Assistant Dean of Students of Residential Life's purview as they work in concert with the rest of the DOS Office, the Academic Office, Head House Parents, AODs, Prefects, RA's and others.

Assistant Dean of Students for Residential Life responsibilities include:

- Build and maintain a Residential Life culture that is rooted in the mission and Core Values of the school, and that strives to create a family feel in our houses and advisor groups.
- Oversee Head House parents and House Parents, working to create a regular cadence of duties and meetings that ensures the effective development and implementation of a "House curriculum." Evaluate regularly the effectiveness and success of residential life at the school, including House parent feedback and evaluation.
- Works closely with the House Parents to ensure the safety and well-being of boarding and day students; manages important details such as grade-specific evening study hall, house activities, and rooming issues as examples.
- Attend to the wellness of students, specifically by chairing a food/nutrition committee and by helping establish healthy sleep hygiene patterns within the school community.
- Oversee and lead the Student Activities Coordinators to ensure that our offerings reflect the needs of the student body and mission of the school. Works to support and encourage activities and programs, including Community Weekends, which promote students' learning and well-being in their lives as well as maintaining an enjoyable environment in the houses.

- Residential Advisors: works with the RA's and other student leaders from selection through training, including evaluating the effectiveness of the program and identifying areas for improvement.
- Student housing: oversees the housing of returning students; room and house changes which occur during the year; assigns housing to incoming students in conjunction with the Admission Office and DOS.
- Support with all student matters in the DOS office: Attend weekly meetings, serve as the DOS representative on a weekend rotation, assist with House searches and toxicology screens, and participate in disciplinary committees when necessary. Additionally, support student transportation needs and track all student departures.
- Works closely with the DOS Office, the Associate Head of School, and many others to develop programs and activities which promote students' learning and well-being in areas relating to living in a community and the development of the individual. The Assistant Dean of Students of Residential Life will oversee certain residential components at each grade level and work with the Associate Head of School and others to determine what those topics will be and how they will be delivered. Identify and bring in outside resources so that Residential Life at The Frederick Gunn School reflects the latest learning about student development.
- Policies and procedures: the Assistant Dean of Students of Residential Life will work, in conjunction with the appropriate people and departments, to help establish and communicate rules and expectations for the structure of house life.

As conceived, this majority of the Assistant Dean of Students of Residential Life role is in the realm of Residential Life. At the same time, the Assistant Dean of Students of Residential Life needs to be ready and willing to assist in the general operation of the Dean of Students Office, writ large, as its operation is inextricable from the residential nature of our school.

The position requires a person who enjoys working with adolescents and leading faculty; someone who communicates well and is highly organized to attend to essential details while keeping the vision of helping adults and students to grow and mature. The Assistant Dean of Students for Residential Life is a full time, twelve month position and is a direct report to the Dean of Students.

Please submit a letter of interest to Ashley LeBlanc at leblanca@frederickgunn.org by June 2, 2023.

The Frederick Gunn School is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Except in cases of a bona fide occupational qualification or need, or except as otherwise permitted or required by law, The Frederick Gunn School does not discriminate against applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, intellectual disability, learning disability or physical disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, or any other protected class status under applicable law with respect to hiring, compensation, promotion, discharge from employment or other terms and conditions of employment. Position announcements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work performed by employees assigned to the job title and the education and skills required. Descriptions are not intended to be a complete list of all responsibilities, duties and skills that are required or may be required in the future.

BACKGROUND SCREENING: The Frederick Gunn School conducts background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer, which includes using a third-party administrator to conduct the checks.

CORE VALUES

Integrated Humans

Thriving people learn to integrate the intellectual, the physical, the spiritual, and the emotional through an examination of the place of each, discernment about their relative role, and a commitment to balance and flourishing.

Hopeful Faculty

We prize faculty who believe resiliently, optimistically and with good humor in the students' and faculty's collective ability to grow and learn; know their discipline and practice, and understand character development. A faculty oriented around these principles will earn the confidence of students and create a place of purpose and fun where faculty and students want to be.

Learning Ecosystem

Thriving communities recognize the interdependent nature of their parts. Therefore, The Frederick Gunn School is a school that champions the interdisciplinary and inter-experiential nature of life and learning - one that incorporates the outdoors, athletics, and arts, as well as academics, into everyday life.

Moral Character Development

We are a school that nurtures Mr. Gunn's belief in character as the driving force in a life well-lived, and that character emerges through the intentional pursuit—in knowledge and

practice—of what is good, right, true, sustainable, and beautiful.

Engaged Citizens

The Frederick Gunn School is a school that, despite growing cultural apathy, cynicism, consumerism and distraction, produces people who care deeply - who become wise, engaged, active citizens.