



# GONZAGA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Educating Young Men in the Jesuit Tradition Since 1821

## Director of Athletics

SEARCH PROSPECTUS



# GONZAGA COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

WASHINGTON, DC

[www.gonzaga.org](http://www.gonzaga.org)

START DATE – JULY 2024 OR SOONER



***DC's only Jesuit  
high school***

## MISSION

Gonzaga College High School is a Catholic college preparatory school for boys operated by the Society of Jesus and its colleagues under the governance of an independent Board of Trustees. Drawing its inspiration from the spiritual vision of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the apostolic and educational tradition of the Jesuits, it offers a values-oriented and academically challenging curriculum to young men of diverse backgrounds from all of the Washington metropolitan area.

Gonzaga views its urban setting in the heart of the nation's capital as a significant advantage in fulfilling its goals, allowing its students to interact with the larger Washington community and to learn leadership skills and civic responsibility as part of their overall development. Moreover, Gonzaga strives to create a dynamic and caring learning environment which it unites with its academic, extra-curricular, and athletic programs to help form Men with and for Others, that is, graduates who are:

open to growth;  
intellectually competent;  
religious;  
loving, and  
committed to doing justice.

## SCHOOL HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

The oldest all-boys school in Washington, DC, Gonzaga has a rich legacy that stretches back more than 200 years. Over the course of that history, Gonzaga has demonstrated and reaffirmed a deep commitment to Jesuit education. And it has chosen to do so in the heart of the inner city—on a street shared with leaders of business and government, and on a block where it ministers to the least fortunate in society.



## FAST FACTS



**950**

young men enrolled



**200**

grade schools represented



**150**

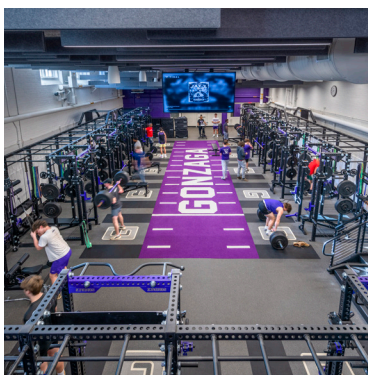
zip codes



At times, the school's location was seen as a liability. But the decision to remain on Eye Street was driven by the recognition that the location plays a major role in shaping who the school aims to be. Today, Gonzaga's downtown location is one of the many reasons for its success. Three blocks from the Metro and the main railway line at Union Station, Gonzaga draws students from all over the Washington area. The location also reinforces its commitment to service. Located on Gonzaga's campus, The Father McKenna Center is a Catholic social service agency serving men struggling with homelessness as well as very low income families.

As a Jesuit school, Gonzaga seeks to form "men for and with others." Embedded in this concept is the idea that faith and justice are two sides of the same coin. Students have abundant opportunities to grow in their faith through the sacraments, retreats, and strong relationships with mission-aligned faculty and staff who cherish a special brotherhood that is palpable when visiting campus.

Moreover, in keeping with the rich Jesuit heritage of scholarship and the intellectual life, Gonzaga boasts an academic program that is challenging, invigorating, broad, and deep. The aim of the Gonzaga experience is to inculcate students on how to think and ultimately nurture a love of learning that stays with them throughout their lives.



## ATHLETICS

Sports, like everything else at Gonzaga, serve a didactic purpose and offer student-athletes lessons about leadership and teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship, and working together for a common goal. The Gonzaga brotherhood is enhanced on the fields and courts as the student-athletes place the team above the individual and to take pride wearing the Gonzaga purple in competition and in the stands.

There are 18 interscholastic sports—with over 40 teams—currently offered at Gonzaga. Gonzaga competes in the Washington Catholic Athletics Conference (WCAC) and, at times, depending on the sport, maintains additional affiliations with other conferences in the DC region. The school has won more than 100 championships in over a dozen sports in the past decade.

Due to the school's landlocked, urban location, the school has had to develop strong partnerships with area programs for facility-use. The less-than-ten-year old turf field on campus recently got lighting installed, and the "Friday Night Lights" home games have further strengthened the "Purple Pride" that is omnipresent on campus. A well-equipped on-campus locker room, team meeting space, and state-of-the-art strengthening gym are brand new this year.

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

The primary function of the Athletic Director is to manage and oversee the 18 athletic programs at Gonzaga, as well as, oversee and manage three Assistant Athletic Directors, the Athletic Training staff and the Strength and Conditioning staff.



## FAST FACTS



**12:1**

student-faculty ratio



**40+**

teams across 18 sports



**33%**

of students receive tuition assistance



### ***Duties & Responsibilities***

Essential functions include but are not limited to the following:

- Oversee all Athletics staff as noted above
- Manage the brand identity of the athletics program consistent with all marketing and communications standards in cooperation with the Senior Director of Marketing and Communications
- Provide fiscal oversight and budget management for the entire athletic program, inclusive of department, individual team and team booster accounts
- Ensures compliance with WCAC regulations and policies and communicates these to all head coaches on an annual basis
- Hire, train, and evaluate the athletic department's employees, including office staff, head coaches, and trainers
- Works to maintain existing relationships with facility partners (DC Department of Parks & Recreation, local universities, Nats Academy, etc.)
- Creatively seeks new partnerships for facility usage across the Metropolitan area
- Authorize the hiring and managing of the assistant coaches in coordination with head coaches
- Assist coaches with the development of their programs and solve issues that may arise with parents, students, or teachers
- Work with the Assistant Athletic Directors to ensure that the health and safety of the students remains a top priority
- Ensure that staff hire referees and officials as needed; Authorize payments for game officials
- Collaborate with the Dean of Students/Director of Security to hire police, security personnel, and other officials as needed for games.

## FAST FACTS



**13**

of 18 head coaches are  
full-time staff members



**74%**

of students participate in an  
annual retreat



**80%**

of students participate  
in a sport

- Oversees staff in the scheduling of transportation for sports games, retreats, and field trips
- Under the direction of The Assistant Headmaster for Student Life, work with all coaches to form them in Gonzaga's Ignatian way of proceeding, consistent with the school's mission.
- Collaborates with the Assistant Headmaster for Student Life on the Gonzaga Coaches' Handbook, a document that's reviewed annually and distributed to all members of the athletic department
- Performs other duties as assigned.

### ***Preferred Qualifications***

- Possess a minimum of a Bachelor's degree; strong preference will be given to candidates with a degree and/or experience in sports management
- Must be able to support the school's Jesuit mission
- At least 5 years of experience in sports management, with special consideration for candidates who have experience in Catholic and Jesuit secondary school settings
- Strong management, interpersonal, communication, and organizational skills
- CPR and AED certification or willingness to obtain

### ***Additional Details***

- Requires regular local travel and occasional non-local traveling with athletic teams
- Requires being in an outdoor environment with varieties of temperature changes
- Requires working on the weekends at various times of the year







Gonzaga believes that a culturally diverse faculty, staff, and parent/student body strengthens both its sense of community and educational philosophy of seeking to form “young men for and with others”. The school, therefore, seeks applications from candidates who will contribute to an atmosphere in which all are valued and supported.

## OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

For over 20 years as Director of Athletics, a proud and dedicated Gonzaga alumnus Joe Reyda '85 helped to shape the sports program at his alma mater and shepherd many coaches and scholar-athletics to great heights. Unexpectedly, Mr. Reyda died this past summer and Assistant Head for Student Life, Mr. Jim Kilroy, is serving as Interim Director of Athletics as the school launches a nationwide search for the position.

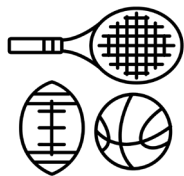
The change in leadership over Gonzaga's athletic department will bring an opportunity to maintain the caliber of sports programming the school has offered while also advancing to new levels of operational excellence already underway with the current athletic leadership structure. This school year, three assistant athletic directors have begun executing their set of responsibilities with passion and a servant-leadership approach. The next Director of Athletics will inherit a willing team who desire to grow in their roles and to support the mission of Gonzaga wholeheartedly.

While there are many long-tenured head coaches at Gonzaga—some of whom have been leading teams for over two decades—the next Director of Athletics will be called upon to bring mission-aligned talent when vacancies arise. Moreover, the Director of Athletics should bring an expertise to the formative evaluation of coaches that align with the school's mission and Jesuit values.

Gonzaga has been quite effective in building and maintaining partnerships

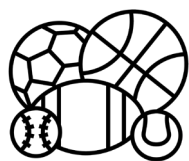


## FAST FACTS



**20%**

of students participate  
in two sports



**5%**

of students participate  
in three sports



**1821**

Founded



with area organizations for sports programming and athletic team use. The next Director of Athletics will need to maintain such relationships and steward others in order to execute programming for over 40 teams.

As school leadership considers upcoming capital projects related to athletics, the next Director should be comfortable with engaging in a holistic, consultative process to determine the highest and best use of existing facilities and where and when upgrades are necessary. Cultivating such donor prospects in collaboration with the advancement team will be critical for the success of such efforts.

Budget processes and operations are beginning to shift to a more centralized approach with oversight and input from school leadership. The next Director of Athletics should bring a level of operational excellence and assessment of annual budget needs and programmatic goals of the athletic program in light of the larger school budget. To this end, maintaining close relationships and candid dialogue with school leadership and the head coaches and booster programs will be essential. Being a convincing and passionate leader-ambassador to parents and students as to the role of sports at a Jesuit school like Gonzaga will be instrumental to the success of the next Director of Athletics.

### ABOUT THE AREA

Gonzaga College High School is situated just blocks from the U.S. Capitol Building in an area of local growth and redevelopment. National colleges and universities have begun establishing DC-based campuses adjacent to Gonzaga's.

Steeped in history, Washington, D.C. has a captivating, European



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architectural flair and is now home to more than 70 world-class museums and art galleries, 175 embassies and cultural centers, and countless theaters and outdoor events offering year-round entertainment options.

Outdoor enthusiasts enjoy all four-seasons, numerous parks and green spaces, including Rock Creek Park (the largest urban park in the country), along with 60 miles of bicycle and pedestrian tracks. Sports lovers cheer on several professional athletic teams, including the Capitals, the Wizards and the Mystics, the Nationals, DC United and Washington Spirit, and the Washington Commanders.

Washington, DC is a popular tourist destination but also ranks highly on world livability rankings. The city's diverse neighborhoods provide distinct and unique areas to enjoy culture and arts events, food, and shopping. Three major airports in the area provide unparalleled travel accessibility.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

The search committee is on a fast-track to identify and secure the next Director of Athletics. To apply, please submit the following documents, confidentially, and as separate PDF attachments and email to Kyle Pietrantonio at [kpietrantonio@partnersinmission.com](mailto:kpietrantonio@partnersinmission.com). Please include "Gonzaga College High School - Director





of Athletics” in the subject field. The deadline to submit materials is **Friday, November 3, 2023**.

- Letter of interest
- Current resume with all appropriate dates included
- Statement of philosophy on your approach to leading athletics at a Jesuit college preparatory institution
- List of five professional references with names and working relationships, phone numbers, and email addresses (No references will be contacted without your knowledge and approval.)



***Assemble all of the application materials in one email to:***

Kyle Pietrantonio, Partner  
kpietrantonio@partnersinmission.com  
Partners in Mission School Leadership Search Solutions, LLC  
8 Nicklaus Way | Mashpee, MA 02649  
202-390-0230 (Cell)  
www.partnersinmissionslss.com





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