



Opportunity Statement

Founding Lower School Science and Outdoor Education Faculty

Named in honor of Louise Thaden, a pioneering aviator from Bentonville, [Thaden School](#) opened in the fall of 2017 with just 50 students in Grades 7 and 9. With its well-resourced tuition assistance program, the School has grown steadily and enrollment is more than 320 students in Grades 6 to 12 in the 2023-24 academic year. Thaden will introduce a Lower School beginning with Kindergarten and Grade 1 in the 2024-25 academic year.

Thaden School now seeks a Founding Lower School Science and Outdoor Education Teacher.

Role and Responsibilities

- Design, coordinate, and lead science and outdoor education programming in the Lower School
- Develop an outdoor education program that will become a signature feature of the Lower School curriculum
- Work closely with the other faculty members and the Head of Lower School to construct experiences and inquiry-based science and outdoor education lessons that reflect a thorough knowledge of child development as it pertains to these areas of study
- Work with classroom teachers to integrate these topics and themes into daily instruction
- Provide guided discovery, exploration, and responsible risk-taking with opportunities to experiment, collaborate, problem-solve, reflect, and synthesize
- Emphasize sustainability with an environmental lens
- Create content with a clear, dedicated connection to gardening and agriculture experiences, emphasis on nutrition and health, exposure to cyclical events, elements of engineering and design, and connections with and to other disciplines
- Play a role in the development/redevelopment of outdoor education spaces
- Model Thaden's philosophy in working with students, parents, colleagues, and administration
- Create a classroom and outdoor environment that facilitates the social-emotional development of each student
- Support students in achieving their full potential of development and growth through observation of student behavior and needs and consult with the school counselor and learning support staff to enhance that development and growth

- Work with the Head of Lower School to carry out the academic program through effective curriculum development and implementation, classroom management, and parent communication
- Collaborate with grade-level colleagues and work closely with other Lower School faculty around teaching and learning
- Write narrative progress reports for each child and hold parent-teacher conferences to amplify the information included in the progress reports
- Attend and participate in faculty in-service meetings, faculty professional development, student gatherings, and other school functions, as requested
- Participate in professional development opportunities and keep current on educational issues and trends
- Effectively interact with a diverse population of students, families, faculty, and staff
- Invest in the life of the school by participating in collaborative planning sessions, faculty meetings, and multidisciplinary team meetings
- Administer assessments and interpret results to determine student strengths and areas of need
- Select, order, store, issue, and inventory science and outdoor education equipment, materials, and supplies

Skills, Qualifications, and Attributes

- Positive personality and love for children
- Interest in and in-depth knowledge about the teaching of early childhood students, including those from a variety of racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds
- Strong interest in the social-emotional needs of early childhood students
- Highly collaborative and collegial manner
- Consistent, highly professional behavior, including discretion, judgment, and integrity
- Dedicated work ethic: proactive, responsible, reliable, punctual, and attentive to deadlines
- Effective time management skills with the ability to manage, organize, and prioritize work
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- High proficiency with teaching and learning technology accompanied by a willingness to learn new technologies
- Ability to work independently with minimum supervision
- Flexibility with the special needs associated with an academic calendar and schedule
- Ability to display strong initiative, internal motivation, and a willingness to take on responsibilities beyond those explicitly defined
- Committed to professional learning and growth

- Undergraduate degree (master's preferred) in education or an appropriate content field
- Three to five years of successful teaching experience
- Candidate must also complete the required background check

Physical Requirements

- Job frequently requires standing, walking, and handling objects with hands
- Job occasionally requires reaching, climbing, stooping, kneeling, pushing, pulling, and lifting up to 25 pounds
- Some work performed outside exposed to changing weather conditions
- Moderate concentration/intensity, which includes prolonged mental effort with limited opportunity for breaks
- The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate

Wage Classification

Based on the duties and requirements above, this position will be paid as a salaried exempt employee.

Applications

Please submit your application materials through our online portal for [Thaden School Job Opportunities](#). Applications should include a cover letter and resume. The start date is negotiable but should be no later than 1 July 2024. Thaden is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all federal, state, and local laws that prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, national origin, citizenship, age (18 or older), religion, disability, marital status, veteran status, and sexual orientation. Applications by members of all underrepresented groups, including women and people of color, are encouraged.

Salary will be competitive within the independent school sector. All offers of employment are contingent on successful completion of a criminal background check.

About the School

A non-sectarian independent school under the direction of its own board, Thaden School offers a challenging and innovative educational program that ignites in students a passion for discovery and learning, prepares them to succeed in college, and inspires them to lead lives of integrity, purpose, and responsible global citizenship.

At the core of the School's mission is a commitment to balance that takes many forms: a curriculum that integrates the sciences and the humanities; indoor and outdoor teaching spaces where sustainability is a tangible part of the lesson; hands-on programs for civic engagement; athletics and physical education programs that build confidence and character through competition and meaningful participation; and a diverse faculty and staff that empower students to think deeply and expansively about their potential and place in the world. The School's robust Indexed Tuition program supports the creation of a balanced learning community where students of many perspectives, talents, and interests learn and grow stronger together.

Located on a 30-acre campus in downtown Bentonville, the School is walking distance from the town square, Brightwater Culinary Institute, The Momentary, and a variety of other educational resources. The School engaged a world-class team of architects to design an enduring and innovative campus that sparks curiosity, inspires creativity, and invites reflection. The principal designer, Marlon Blackwell, is the 2020 recipient of the American Institute of Architects' Gold Medal, the Institute's highest honor. The School's first permanent buildings opened in the fall of 2019 and the campus master plan was completed in the fall of 2021.

The School's [website](#) features additional information regarding its mission, educational programs, and faculty and staff.