



Ethical Culture Fieldston School

Principal of Fieldston Middle
July 1, 2022

The Ethical Culture Fieldston School (ECFS) invites applications, nominations, and inquiries as it embarks upon a search for a permanent Principal of Fieldston Middle, which encompasses 399 students in grades 6-8, for the 2022-23 school year. The successful candidate will demonstrate a deep commitment to the founding principles of ethical learning, academic excellence, [progressive education](#), [equity and inclusion](#), and a genuine desire to engage actively on the Bronx campus as a leader of the Fieldston Middle.

Who We Are

The Ethical Culture Fieldston School offers a world-class progressive education for 1,700 Pre-K–12th grade students at two historic campuses in Manhattan and the Bronx. Founded in 1878 as The Workingman’s School by humanitarian Felix Adler, ECFS remains committed to his vision for ethical learning, academic excellence, and progressive education. The core of the educational program is the study and practice of ethics, where students explore and think critically about what they are learning in order to question and evaluate their own actions, choices, and decisions, as well as those of other individuals and communities. Progressive education at ECFS focuses on the whole child, ensuring that education is responsive, relevant, experiential, and playful. ECFS inspires a diverse and joyful community of passionate learners, critical thinkers, and ethical individuals who aim to make the world more humane and just.

[Fieldston Middle](#) is Ethical Culture Fieldston School’s newest division. Founded in 2007, Fieldston Middle welcomes the majority of its students in 6th grade from Fieldston Lower in the Bronx, Ethical Culture in Manhattan, and a small number of student from other schools. Students in Middle division transition from elementary to secondary education with a focus on their social and emotional sense of self, the ability to look at issues through multiple lenses, explore their own emerging belief systems, and grapple with questions they find relevant and engaging. Instructional methods remain rooted in the commitment to academic excellence and ethical learning through a progressive approach to education. Students engage in traditional sports on competitive teams, non-traditional sports, dance, theatre, visual arts, and music with the goal of maintaining a balanced, healthy life.

The 48,000-square-foot Fieldston Middle School building is designed to maximize sustainability and to nurture the educational and developmental needs of 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders with grade-specific agoras and common spaces that encourage collaboration and connection. With flexible furniture, state-of-the-art AV capabilities, air conditioning, and an all-gender restroom, the Commons space accommodates enhanced capacity for presentations, panel discussions, and exhibitions. Design Studios added in 2019 facilitate cutting-edge opportunities for Fieldston Middle School students in design, robotics, and computer science.

Who You Are

The Principal will be a collaborative leader who inspires vision, fosters trust, and promotes transparency, overseeing all day-to-day aspects of the division serving grades 6-8. They will work in a highly relational, visible, and authentic way with students, faculty, staff, and families to support their experience in and beyond the classroom. The Principal will embrace and communicate a vision established by the founder for progressive pedagogy, ethical learning, and academic excellence, and demonstrate a keen understanding and track record of supporting the unique developmental, social, emotional, and learning needs of pre- and early adolescents in middle school .

About the Position

The Principal has overall responsibility for managing the Middle division and reports to the Head of School. The Principal leads four direct reports, including the Assistant Principal for Academic Life, Assistant Principal for Student Life, School Psychologist, and School Counselor, as well as three direct reports who report to other ECFS administrators: the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator, Ethics & Technology Coordinator, and Director of Health & Wellness. Together, they work with faculty to ensure that students, faculty, staff, and families, experience and embrace the breadth, depth, and possibilities of Fieldston Middle.

Qualities and Qualifications

The most successful candidates will:

- Embrace the values of progressive and ethical education.
- Demonstrate empathetic and courageous leadership with a track record of bringing diverse constituents together around a common vision.
- Demonstrate excellent communication, writing, and presentation skills with all Fieldston Middle community members: students, families, faculty, and staff.
- Encourage and demonstrate deep, responsive listening and open, proactive communication.
- Demonstrate experience with and commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in all areas of school life.
- Display curiosity and an unabashed love of learning, and interest in the developmental stages of middle school students.
- Demonstrate collaboration and transparency; communicate with authenticity in decisions and decision-making processes.
- Demonstrate understanding of leading, supporting, and developing a rapport with unionized faculty and staff.
- Demonstrate capacity to lead and advocate for Fieldston Middle *and* collaborate with other divisions and schoolwide.
- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge and skill set of the full range of educational and social experiences in middle school and independent school environments, including direct experience in classroom teaching and learning.

APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Evaluation of candidate materials will begin immediately and continue until a permanent Principal of Fieldston Middle is named. The review of candidates' materials will begin on December 15, 2021. The start date for this opportunity is July 1, 2022. Inquiries, nominations, and letters of interest with a résumé may be sent in confidence to:



Nishant Mehta, Managing Director
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For more information, please visit ECFS at www.ecfs.org.

ECFS is an equal opportunity employer. Our goal is to be a diverse community of professionals that broadly reflects the people of the metropolitan New York City area, our students, and families. We aim to align our hiring process with our mission and institutional goals. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment and will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, religion or religious practices, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, citizenship status, national origin, age, ability status, military status, unemployment status or any other category protected by applicable local, state, or federal laws. ECFS takes affirmative action in support of its policy to employ and advance all qualified candidates.