



Girls Preparatory School

Chattanooga, TN

Head of Upper School

for July 2015

The School and Its City:

Girls Preparatory School, GPS, (www.gps.edu) an independent day school for girls was founded in 1906, and now serves nearly 600 girls in grades 6-12. Its founders' goal was to create a school to prepare Chattanooga's girls for the academic rigors of college and to instill in them the high principles of honesty, integrity, and consideration for others. Today, more than 105 years later, GPS remains true to its founders' vision, and prepares students for college and for life.

At GPS, girls learn to speak for themselves and articulate their values in the classroom and out in the world. Through numerous opportunities in clubs, athletic teams, and activities, students are challenged to use their voices as they become mentors, activists and community leaders. They are encouraged to pursue their passions, strengthen leadership skills, and learn the importance of collaboration. At the heart of GPS lies its most important tradition: the honor code.

Mission: *Girls Preparatory School creates leaders by engaging the mind, stimulating the spirit, instilling values and self-confidence, and challenging girls to recognize their membership in the global community.*

Vision: *GPS strives to stand among the nation's leading schools and is driven to educate and prepare our girls to be a strong force in the global community and to be recognized as models of active and ethical citizenship.*

The school is located on the north shore of the Tennessee River, with a panoramic view of nearby downtown Chattanooga. The city provides a vibrant and valued "extension" to GPS's brick-and-mortar campus. The cross-country team regularly runs the bridges spanning the Tennessee River while the rowing team plies the waters below. GPS students volunteer throughout the community tutoring children, building homes for Habitat for Humanity, volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House and Chattanooga Room in the Inn, and sponsoring families and children in need. Physics students use the Walnut Street Pedestrian Bridge for their egg-drop experiments and the Coolidge Park Carousel for learning principles of circular motion.

Chattanooga's thriving arts scene, rich local history and natural beauty have garnered it national attention, including *Outside* magazine naming it "Best Town Ever." Its nickname *Gig City* is a result of the city being one of the first in the U.S. to offer one-gigabit-per-second fiber internet service to all residents and businesses, a fact appreciated by GPS which has been a laptop school for almost 20 years. The city's green-living initiative has been embraced by GPS. The campus is home to Bowman Terrace, one of Chattanooga's first "green" roofs, which offers a relaxing spot for students to sit and

study even as it reduces storm water runoff and energy costs. The GPS cafeteria sources food from local farmers and businesses, and the school's composted kitchen scraps are sold to the city for its tree-planting program. The GPS Garden, begun in 2011, provides fresh vegetables to the Chattanooga Area Food Bank.

The Opportunity:

GPS seeks an outstanding educational leader to serve as the Head of Upper School beginning July, 2015. Having welcomed a vibrant, inspirational Head of School in 2014 who has brought new energy to campus, this is a tremendous time to join the GPS community. GPS's Upper School division, served by thirty-six faculty members, educating nearly 400 girls in grades 9-12. GPS is a school of rich traditions, and a place where students appreciate being well-challenged, known and cared for by faculty.

The Head of Upper School will confidentially and joyfully embrace the responsibility for all day-to-day oversight of this division, working with faculty and staff to support students, serving as an inspirational, supportive leader of faculty, and interacting positively with parents in support of their daughters' education. The Head of Upper School will serve on the school's senior leadership team and work closely with the Head of Middle School to ensure strong scope and sequence to GPS's educational program. The successful candidate will be an individual who:

- Embraces GPS's mission and its community
- Is a knowledgeable advocate of all-girls education, ideally well-versed in the research of how girls learn and experience in a single-gender educational environment
- Is a confident leader who adeptly balances collaboration and decisiveness
- Possesses enviable communication skills as a speaker and a writer and understands the importance of transparent communication in a school community
- Is an energetic, visible and warm leader with strong personal skills who will interact joyfully with students, faculty and parents
- Continues to be a student of educational practice, having the interest and knowledge to support curricular innovation and faculty development
- Has strong organizational and prioritizing skills
- Preferably holds an advanced degree, strong teaching experience and successful independent school administrative experience
- Is an individual of integrity and good humor

Opportunities to further enhance this strong division abound for an enthusiastic, innovative leader.

For Consideration

All inquires will be treated confidentially. Please send a resume, letter of interest, and a personal statement/statement of educational philosophy to:

Jane Armstrong and Bill Lyons, Managing Partners, *Independent Thinking*
it@independent-thinking.com
[617-332-3131](tel:617-332-3131) (p)

