



HEAD OF SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY PROFILE



Dear Head of School candidate,

Thank you for your interest in Living Stones Academy! Each time we have an open position to fill at Living Stones, we form a discernment team. This case will be no different. We call it a discernment team because we believe God has already identified and called the person who will serve as Living Stones' next Head of School. Our role is to move through a prayerful discernment process to discover – along with the candidate – what God is up to here at LSA.

Calling has been a key part of the Living Stones story from the beginning. Fourteen years ago, God called a small group of families to found Living Stones Academy. The vision was to form a Christ-centered learning community that would reflect the beauty and diversity of our city – racially, culturally, and economically. Seven and a half years ago, God called Aaron Winkle to serve as our Head of School. Under Aaron's leadership, Living Stones has flourished around a shared mission that includes a deeply committed staff, engaged families, strong board leadership, rising enrollment, and a healthy financial position. There is so much to celebrate!

Now, we are looking for the next Head of School who can build on the strengths of the past and lead us faithfully into the future with a posture of kindness, humility, and generosity. This candidate will need to demonstrate a deep commitment to and ability to build upon LSA's unique model of Christian primary education. This person will need to be a spiritual leader of the school, reflect a rich commitment to diversity, demonstrate managerial competence to lead a diverse and growing team, and know how to be an effective communicator of the vision of LSA both in and outside the walls of the school. If that is you or someone you know, we welcome the opportunity to get to know you better.

Thank you for prayerfully considering serving as Living Stones' next Head of School. We recognize that joining our learning community would be a significant decision for you and those you love. We encourage you to read this Opportunity Profile and explore our website at www.livingstonesgr.org for additional information. If you are interested in pursuing this opportunity, please review the final page to begin the application process. If you have questions, please contact our Discernment Team's co-chairs, Harriet Potoka and LaKiya Jensen, by emailing HOS-search@livingstonesgr.org.

Sincerely,



Peter Boumgarden, PhD
LSA Board President

HISTORY

Living Stones Academy was founded 14 years ago to be an intentionally diverse Christ-centered learning community where all students could receive a high-quality education and experience a deep sense of belonging. Since its founding in 2009, Living Stones has grown from serving 55 students to serving 268 students between preschool and 6th grade. The vision of Living Stones is to shape a learning community made up of students and families “from every nation, tribe, and tongue” (Revelation 7:9).

Living Stones building is located in the vibrant Fulton Heights neighborhood on Grand Rapids’ northeast side. The 3 ½ acre campus is adjacent to Fuller Park and across the street from the large Fulton Heights community garden.



The vision of Living Stones is to shape a learning community that is made up of students and families “from every nation, tribe, and tongue” Revelation 7:9



Living Stones
ACADEMY

Living Stones Academy is a Christ-centered school committed to **inspiring** students to advance God's Kingdom; **equipping** them to embrace diversity with particular emphasis on its cultural, economic, and racial forms; and **empowering** them to love others and pursue Shalom.

MISSION



VALUES

UNWAVERINGLY CHRIST-CENTERED

Teaching, learning, communal worship — and our life together — all revolve around Christ.

ACADEMICALLY RIGOROUS

Students are well prepared by our diverse and caring staff to succeed academically.

INTENTIONALLY INCLUSIVE

God calls us to something big: to be a community where people from all nations, tribes, and tongues can learn and worship together.

EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

Living Stones Academy is a Christ-centered school committed to the city. Rooted in a loving God, revealed in the Living Word, and creation, we seek to help our students learn to love the things that God loves. Knowing all this, education at Living Stones Academy is:

BOLDLY TRANSFORMATIVE

Equipping students to bravely participate in the restoration of God's world by teaching them radical hospitality, justice seeking, and community building

RICH THROUGH DIVERSITY

Understanding that learning is enhanced and deepened through the participation of a diverse group of learners and engagement with a diverse group of texts

INCLUSIVE

Recognizing the inherent dignity and God-given potential of each and every student

INTEGRATED

Weaving learning across disciplines and through grades

BUILT AROUND CREATIVITY + WONDER

Inspiring student curiosity and engaging students in mind, body, and spirit

RIGOROUS

Built upon high expectations in order to help each student develop strong character and to foster a critical understanding of the world



People Should March For King
Our Lives Begin To End
Remember Dr. King
I HAVE A DREAM...
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
We shall come over the top
The time is always right to do what is right
MARCH ON FOR M.L.K.

MLK WAS RIGHT

LOVE YOUR Neighbor
KINDNESS CHANGES EVERYTHING
YOU GOT MY HEART
REMEMBER DR. KING
I HAVE A DREAM...
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

HATE

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Living Stones Academy unites with the broad, historic Christian faith rather than affiliating with any specific denomination. In this commitment, Living Stones Academy embraces the following declarations:

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he is fully God and fully man, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
6. We believe in the resurrection of the body, and in the life everlasting.
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.



HALLMARKS OF AN LSA GRADUATE

CHRIST FOLLOWER

Through the practices of prayer and worship, students will learn the disciplines that will help them grow in their relationship with Jesus with the goal of rightly ordering their loves.

IMAGE BEARER

Students will come to understand that their identity and worth - and others' - comes from being made in the image of our Creator God.

KINGDOM CITIZEN

Students will learn the marks of the Kingdom including God's call for justice, hospitality, peacemaking, and forgiveness.

CREATION EXPLORER

Students will learn to explore, care for, and celebrate God's beautiful creation.



FIVE KEY DECISION MAKING QUESTIONS

These five key questions guide all of our decisions at Living Stones.

1 Is this good for students and their learning?

2 Will this help me build trust with the people who love this student the most?

3 Are my actions and words consistent with what I believe about Jesus and who He has called me/us to be?

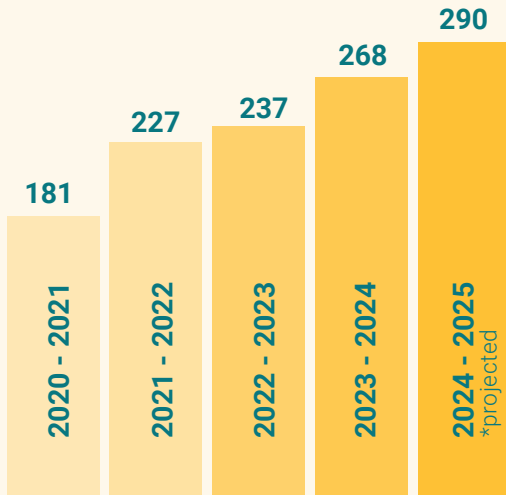
4 Will this help create/shape a positive, life-giving culture where we can all flourish?

5 Am I assuming the best of this student, this parent, my colleague?

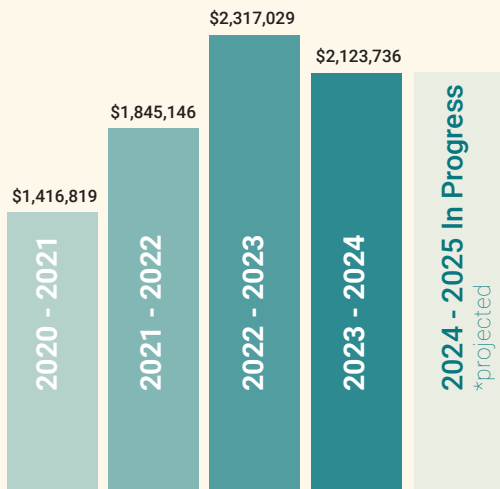




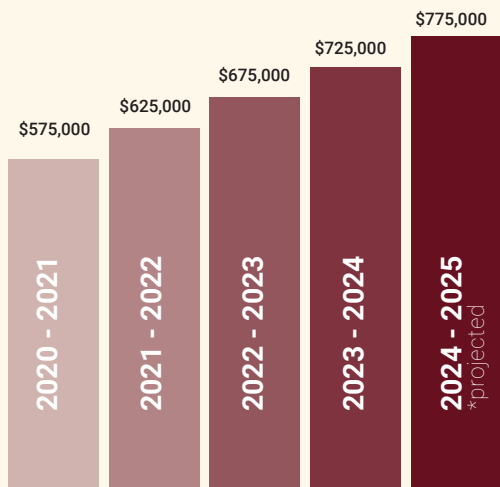
ENROLLMENT & BUDGET TRENDS



Enrollment

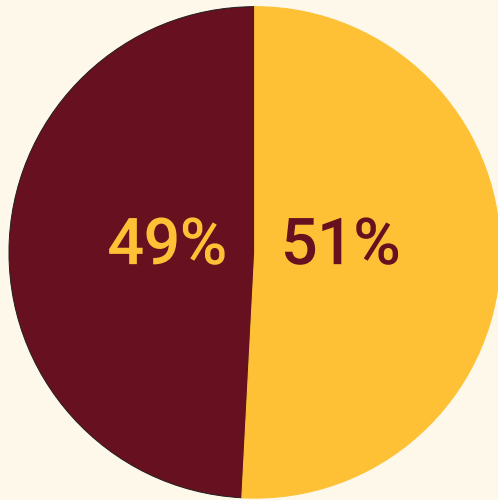


Total Budget



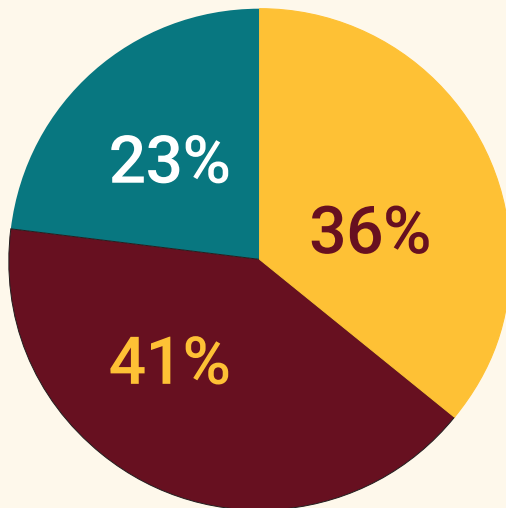
Tuition Support Fund

RACIAL & ECONOMIC DIVERSITY



Racial Diversity

- Students of color
- White students



Economic Diversity

- Qualify for free/reduced lunch and LSA tuition assistance
- Pay full tuition
- Qualify for LSA tuition assistance

POSITION

LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

The Head of School of Living Stones Academy reports to the LSA Board and is the sole employee of the Board. He/She serves as the chief spiritual, financial, organizational, and academic leader of the school, guiding a talented administrative team to oversee LSA and lead a diverse community of staff, students, and families.

SPIRITUAL LEADER

The Head of School serves as the spiritual leader of LSA and is a servant-leader role model to students, teachers, and parents inspiring and encouraging them to be drawn to Christ and creating an environment where joy, compassion, integrity, patience, humility, transparency and discernment are practiced. He/She encourages and builds shared spiritual practices to help staff grow in their love for God, for their neighbor, and for each other so they are equipped to positively influence the spiritual growth of students.

MISSION AND VISION IMPLEMENTATION

Based on a deep understanding of and commitment to the vision, mission and values of the school, the Head of School leads the implementation of the same at LSA maintaining the centrality of these statements to the work of the school and effectively communicating that vision with all stakeholder groups. He/She celebrates and promotes diversity and effectively communicates and works with the different cultures in the LSA's community.

The Head of School delegates and empowers the principal, teachers and staff to ensure that LSA's mission, educational philosophy and hallmarks are evident in the day-to-day operation of the school, He/She supports the Principal in developing and implementing systems that cultivate academic performance through an innovative curriculum that aligns with LSA's mission.

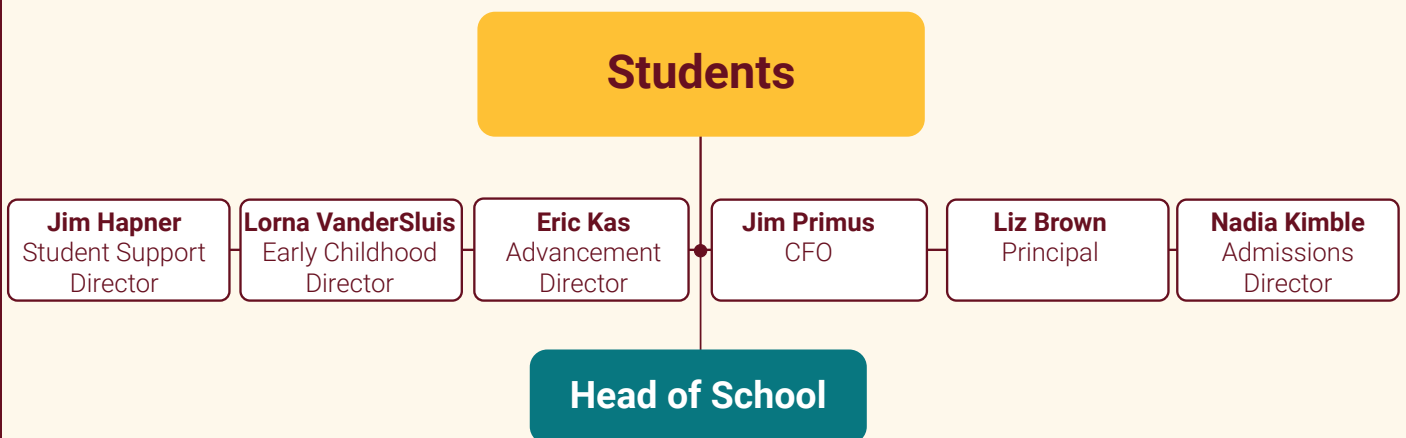


ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Head of School demonstrates the knowledge, skills, and ability to effectively manage operations that ensures the fiscal health of the school, that implements sound hiring and personnel practices, and promotes an effective and safe environment in which all students and staff flourish. He/She maintains positive relationships with the Board and works collaboratively with the board and its committees to shape LSA's vision, mission, governance, policies, and strategic goals.

DONOR DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Head of School, working with the Advancement Director, builds a culture of generosity among students, families, staff and donors who genuinely engage in supporting the mission of the school through offering their prayers, financial support and expertise. He/She is an unifying and effective communicator and facilitates strong relationships across all stakeholder groups, staff, parents, board, donors, volunteers, and community at large. As an effective team builder, decision making happens through meaningful dialogue, consultation, and collaboration.



PROCESS OF CANDIDACY

If you sense that the gifts and experiences God has given you may be a good fit for the Head of School position at Living Stones Academy, we invite you to begin the inquiry process. Inquiries and expressions of interest regarding this search may be forwarded to the co-chairs of the discernment team at HOS-search@LivingStonesGR.org or by calling Harriet Potoka at (312) 310-5617. Inquiries will remain confidential.

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING FOR REVIEW:

1. A current resume
2. Responses to the following essay questions:
 - Describe your testimony of faith in Jesus Christ, indicate how God is using you in your work, in your church, and in your community. How has your relationship with Jesus shaped your career and influenced your decision to apply for this position?
 - Why are you interested in serving Living Stones Academy?
 - Using what you have learned about Living Stones Academy from the LSA website, this Opportunity Profile, and any other research you may have conducted, describe how your life, career, and leadership development have equipped you to lead and grow LSA.
3. Provide the names and contact information of four references who can speak both to your professional capabilities to thrive in this role and the personal characteristics that align with the character we seek to lead the LSA community. Please include their name, email address and phone number. References will only be contacted after we have requested and received your permission.

Submit this information in one document or pdf to:

Harriet Potoka and LaKiya Jenkins
Discernment Team Co-chairs
at
HOS-search@LivingStonesGR.org

Please include **LSA Head of School** in the subject line.

SEARCH TIMELINE:

All candidate information will be reviewed upon receipt. We anticipate doing in person interviews in the spring and hope to select our new Head of School to start in the summer of 2024.



