



**Wildwood School**

Position Statement  
Middle School Director Search  
**Wildwood School**

Los Angeles, California  
Start Date: July 1, 2024





# Wildwood School

## Middle School Director Search Position Statement



### OVERVIEW

Wildwood is an urban, co-ed, college-preparatory K-12 school in West Los Angeles recognized for its innovative practices, progressive pedagogy, and commitment to multicultural programming. The school enrolls 728 students in three divisions on two campuses, both on the westside of Los Angeles. The Elementary School, which was the original campus, is close to LAX, and the Middle and Upper School is about three miles north at the Santa Monica border. A decidedly urban school, students attend from all over the greater Los Angeles area and are drawn by the school's excellent reputation as one of the city's leading and most exciting independent schools.

While many schools may describe themselves as "progressive", the term often refers largely to forward-thinking and liberally minded attitudes toward social issues. At Wildwood, the progressive qualities extend well beyond the social constructs and are centered in the curriculum and pedagogy.



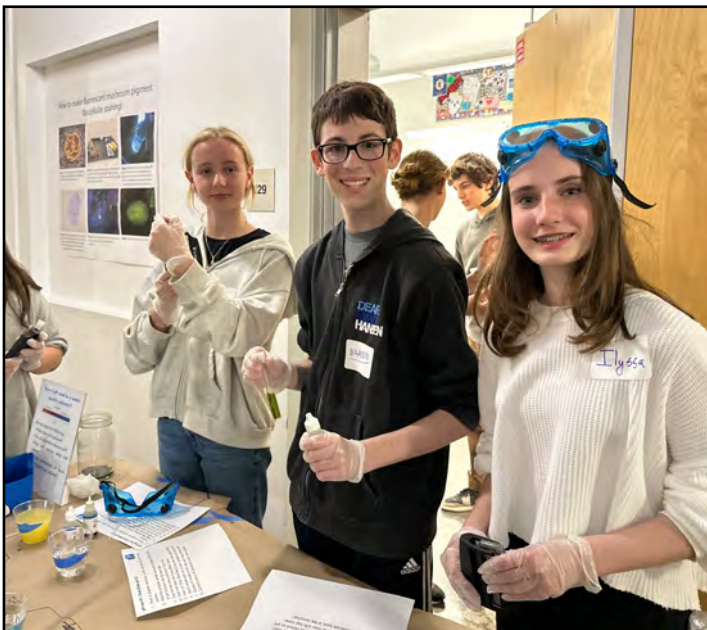
This is a truly student-centered school, one whose academic and co-/extra- curricular programs are based on what is best for students. The teaching, the content, and the overall organization of the school are informed by research and a spirit of innovation rarely seen in other strong college-preparatory schools. Wildwood is an inspiring and exciting community in which to work and learn.

### MISSION AND HISTORY

*Wildwood School cultivates reflective scholars, bold innovators and compassionate leaders equipped with the skills, ethics and inspiration to transform their world.*

*"...in charging students with becoming architects of their own learning, you have unleashed something in your community that is as exciting as it is powerful."*

—John Gulla, Executive Director of the Edward E. Ford Foundation)



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### DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING (DEIB) MISSION STATEMENT

Wildwood School is a dynamic community of culturally and racially diverse families and educators. Wildwood honors individual differences and creates conditions where all can feel safe, accepted, and empowered. Our healthy exchange of perspectives and experiences cultivates compassionate, effective change makers.

Wildwood is a truly mission-driven school. Wildwood teachers, administrators, and trustees are not afraid to lean on best practice and research to develop new models of learning and refine curriculum, shifting course for the benefit of students. Based on best practices, the school has acted with courage and foresight to create programs that are engaging and relevant to the lives of students who will be entering a very different workforce from previous generations. Social, emotional, and intellectual skills are integrated both vertically and horizontally. Diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) are central to the work of all at the school. Collaboration among students and faculty is the norm and project-based learning has existed at the school since its founding in 1971. Typical of a culture of innovation, there are three thriving Institutes at Wildwood: WISRD – Wildwood Institute for STEM Research and Development, WISL—Wildwood Institute for Social Leadership, and WIE— the Wildwood Institute for Entrepreneurship. While not part of the Middle School program, the Institutes are emblematic of Wildwood’s “student-centered, collaborative workspaces where students [can] engage with the real world as scientists, entrepreneurs, activists, and ultimately changemakers.” (Our Wildwood Magazine, Summer 2021)

*“This is a change-oriented place. We’ve put a stake in the ground around innovation, and everyone here knows that we are willing to take risks in order to grow and sustain our ‘edge’.”*

—Wildwood administrator







## MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR: THE POSITION

The school's next Middle School Director will join a dynamic, high-functioning team of teachers and administrators, actively mentoring and sponsoring others in their professional growth and contributions to both Wildwood School and to the broader educational community. The 6th through 8th grade Middle School division serves just under 200 students; there are 25 teachers in the division.

### The Middle School Director

- Supervises the practice, evaluation, and continuous improvement of the faculty;
- Supervises and collaborates with the Assistant Director of Middle School for Academic Services, Teaching and Learning, as well as the Middle School Counselor and Middle School Dean of Students;
- Works closely with the Upper School Director in supervision and collaboration with the Faculty Services Coordinator (6-12) and the Executive Assistant to the the Middle and Upper School Directors;
- Attends to the quality of all middle school curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular programs
- Utilizes relevant primary and secondary educational research to inform change;

- Works collaboratively with all members of the HLT (Head's Leadership Team) which includes the Head of School, Associate Head of School, two other division directors, Director of Institutional Advancement, CFO/COO, Director of Equity and Inclusion, and the Director of Admission and Enrollment Management;
- Consistently reminds others of shared goals and holds them accountable for their part in moving the school forward;
- Communicates both within the school community (to students, faculty, and parents) and to external constituents (to applicants and their families, fellow educators, community organizations, and other school partners);
- Serves as a responsive guide and expert for parents/guardians of middle school students;
- Facilitates effective support for students who need academic, social or emotional assistance at school;
- assures that the spirit and tone of the middle school is healthy and oriented to the safety and happiness of students and teachers in the division;
- participates actively in relevant functions related to the operation of the K-12 program, such as interviewing and serving on admissions and other committees, DEIB programming, and Board and parent education programming

*"Those [founders] I met spoke with joy, conviction, and purpose in creating something, in working toward the development of a program that would be wholly good for children."*

—Head of School Landis Green, at the 50th anniversary of the school's founding.

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### THE PROGRAM

Wildwood's Middle School program is robust. Middle School students are asked to "sharpen their abilities to communicate clearly, develop a concise argument, analyze someone else's reasoning, think critically and imagine real-world applications for what they've learned." Students take a challenging interdisciplinary Humanities course each year, as well as math, science, languages (Mandarin, Spanish and Coding are offered) visual and performing arts, physical education and various electives. The Advisory Program serves as a safe haven for academic support and team building; students stay with the same advisor and small group of single-grade aged students through their journey in middle school.



*"One of the many gifts I received from Wildwood is the deep value and practice of active reflection [which is] powerful, dynamic, and transformative."*

—Rasheda Carroll, former Director of Equity and Inclusion and current parent

The school's focus on projects propels arts programming in uncommon ways. All middle schoolers rotate through art, music, and performing arts programming, which transitions into robust offerings on the upper school level, where the three are hallmarks of a Wildwood education. The participation level in the middle/upper athletic program is at over 70% of students playing at least one sport, and a large subset of that group playing multiple sports. Middle School sports offerings include: Basketball, Cross-Country, Equestrian, Golf, Soccer, Swimming, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball.



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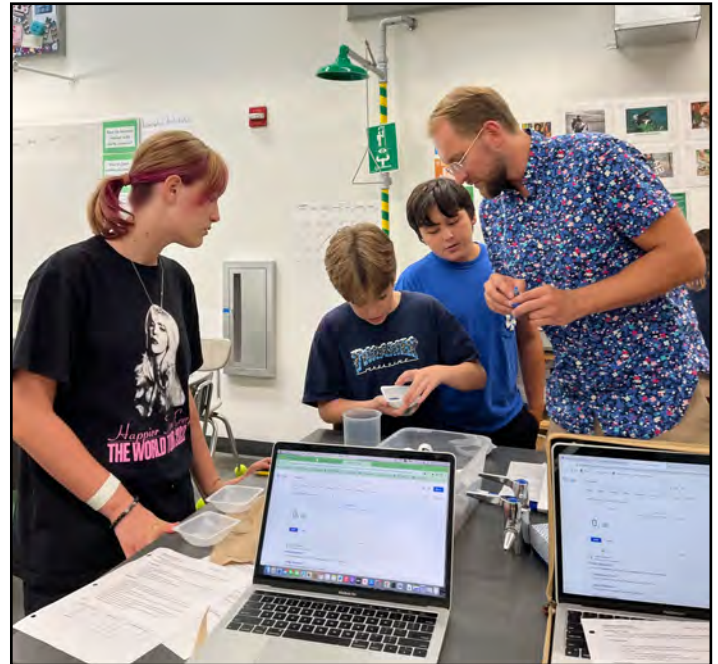


## QUALIFICATIONS AND QUALITIES

Eighth graders hope that the next leader of Wildwood Middle School will be “super direct—no pussyfooting around—and ‘good strict’”! Teachers ask for “someone who loves middle school, and who has established themselves as a middle school expert.” Other students and teachers at the school hope the next Director will:

- Lead with energy and stamina, a stellar work ethic, and top-notch organizational, executive functioning, and management skills
- Bring both middle school teaching and leadership experience
- Exhibit wisdom, judgment, and a keen intellect
- Share a genuine affection for students and a natural, optimistic, problem-solving nature
- Lead with curiosity and openness
- Show both patience and decisiveness, understanding when it is important to pause and reflect, and when a strong backbone is necessary
- Enjoy a ready sense of humor, relish and sustain community with warmth and humility
- Demonstrate effective DEIB leadership, wisdom, skills, and enthusiasm
- Serve as a “warm demander” who has both courage and clarity

There is a deliberateness and honesty in the school’s culture; people at Wildwood are not afraid to be direct and clear, which has created an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. There is humor and warmth among students, faculty, and administration. Wildwood is a school where adults trust one another; in this kind of community, innovation is possible and improvement—as well as acceptance of imperfection—has become the norm. The new Middle School Director will join an exceptional team of educators.



## APPLICATION PROCESS

Candidates interested in applying to be the next Middle School Director at Wildwood may apply online at <https://rg175.com/candidate/signup>. The application must include:

- Letter of interest
- Resume
- List of 5 references (will not be contacted without advance permission)
- Personal Statement (can be an educational philosophy or a sample of your writing for your school community.)

The deadline for receipt of completed applications will be announced on the RG175 website but will be on or about November 15th. If you have any questions, please contact:

Catherine Hunter, RG175 Consultant  
[cshunter33@gmail.com](mailto:cshunter33@gmail.com)  
510-504-8036