



Head of School Search

VALWOOD SCHOOL | VALDOSTA, GA
START DATE: JULY 2027





Valwood School

Founded in 1968, Valwood School is an independent, coeducational, college-preparatory day school serving approximately 400 students in grades pre-K through 12. Since 2002, the school has been located on a scenic 45-acre campus just north of Valdosta in south-central Georgia, approximately twenty-two miles from the Florida state line.

Valwood School is truly a community of learners. Students from pre-kindergarten through high school learn in, and are part of, a vibrant, coeducational community on a beautiful modern campus that feels like a small college campus. Valwood's students are happy, engaged, and have a sense of belonging. They are curious, motivated, and excited to learn. Students, faculty, parents, and administrators cite the close-knit, welcoming community as the heartbeat of the school.

Valwood School is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS). It is also a proud member of the Georgia Independent School Association (GISA), the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) and The College Board.

Mission Statement

Valwood is an independent college preparatory school whose mission is to instill in its students an enthusiasm for academic excellence, the foundations of strong character, and a commitment to serve others. Valwood's academic program offers students a challenging curriculum based on high expectations and close interaction between teacher and student. Valwood seeks to develop its students' intellectual curiosity and the ability to read with understanding, think critically, speak fluently, and write effectively. Valwood strives to build strong character in its students by requiring them to follow a code of honor based on fundamental values of integrity, honesty, and responsibility. The school also encourages participation in programs outside the classroom designed to build strong character by teaching teamwork and developing confidence, independence, and leadership. Valwood works to instill in its students an abiding commitment to service by fostering in them respect for others, compassion for those in need, an understanding of civic duty, and a responsibility to serve the communities in which they live.

Motto

Academics, Character, and Service



Fast Facts



THE SCHOOL

Established: 1968

Grades: Pre-Kindergarten through 12th Grade

Enrollment: 400

Students in Class of 2026: 57

Juniors Who Complete Week-Long Internship: 100%

Upper School Students in interscholastic sports: 84%

Students of Color: 16%

Average Class Size: LS 11, MS 15, US 11.

Student:Teacher Ratio: LS 11:1, MS 13:1, US 13:1



FACULTY & STAFF

Full and part-time faculty/staff: 68 full-time, 4 part-time

Advanced degrees: 37% have master's degrees or higher.



FINANCES

Tuition: \$6,500 to \$17,712 (Pre-Kindergarten - 12th Grade)

Operating budget: \$6 Million

Tuition Assistance: 37% of student body

Memberships and Affiliations

SAIS	Southern Association of Independent Schools
NAIS	National Association of Independent Schools
GISA	Georgia Independent School Association



Academics

The academic program at Valwood is a well-developed, intentional curriculum supported by administration and guided by a strong faculty. The curriculum is well-articulated across the three divisions, and student engagement is highly valued. Fifteen Advanced Placement courses are offered in the Upper School, and the students achieve strong results. The school's philosophy is to make Advanced Placement options accessible to as many students as possible. College placement for Valwood's graduates is impressive, including colleges and universities across the nation, public and private.

Technology is infused into the curriculum and is well supported. Valwood School is committed to fostering a learning environment that supports advancements in technology, while also focusing on the soft skills necessary to be successful. As technology evolves, so does the way in which material is taught and students learn. Valwood School encourages students to utilize technology in the classroom, but the curriculum is not dependent on technology. It is the belief of Valwood School that instructional technology should be used as a resource and curriculum enhancement.

Resources Available

- ★ Laptops in the Middle School and Upper School (not 1:1, but available for use)
- ★ Desktop computers in each Lower School classroom
- ★ Projectors in every classroom
- ★ Two computer labs
- ★ Designated fiber optic cable serving the campus
- ★ Wireless internet access across the campus
- ★ SmartBoards in select classrooms



Athletics

The Athletic Program at Valwood School is student-centered and an integral part of the student's total educational experience. The program is designed to provide positive learning opportunities for each student who participates. All who desire may participate. Care is given to provide coaching and opportunities regardless of skill level.

Students benefit from the development of physical fitness, leadership, teamwork, social skills, self-discipline, and integrity. Athletic participation also promotes decision-making skills, good citizenship, good sportsmanship, and maturity. These characteristics assist in the development of individual and team attitudes that are beneficial for a successful season and for future life.

Varsity, B-team, Middle School, and Junior Pro are offered in various sports. Depending on the grade level of the student, they may have the opportunity to participate in the following sports: football, softball, volleyball, cross country, cheerleading, basketball, wrestling, swimming, soccer, tennis, track, baseball, and golf.

The Athletic Department's mission is to provide athletic opportunities to challenge and develop Middle and Upper School students. Over twenty-five different teams compete in individual and team sports. The athletic facilities at Valwood are first-rate. The school has had success in hiring teacher/coaches which ensures a proper balance between athletics, academics, the arts, and overall student wellness.



The Arts

Visual art students use their own lives and the natural world for the inspiration behind their drawing, painting, and sculpting, and our teachers value original ideas and experimentation. Classes teach the enjoyment of artistic ability and process, appreciation for the work of others and a sense of pride in one's own work. An excellent Arts Center facility exists on the modern school campus.

Performance is an integral part of Valwood's artistic community. The goal of musical and theatrical performances is to achieve growth and enjoyment through our numerous vocal, instrumental, and acting groups. Students learn the values of teamwork and unity in One-Act Play and/or Literary. Student initiative is also highly respected at Valwood, and student artists are given the chance to create new and original works.



The Position

Valwood School seeks a leader who will join the school and the Valdosta community, first seeking to understand and appreciate the school and the area. Valwood is clear in its mission and core values. The school has been on a steady nine-year trajectory and wants to see that progress continue. Valwood is not looking for candidates who need to make radical changes but rather to bring a professional, discerning eye to the programs and facilities and continue to move the school forward. The next Head of School will inherit a highly professional administrative team and a faculty beloved by the students. The Board of Trustees is engaged and supportive. The Board contains a good mix of current parents, alumni, and members of the Valdosta community. The school has a strong five-part strategic plan, but The Board is currently envisioning a new Strategic Plan, and the incoming Head of School will have important input to that planning.



Professional Qualifications

Experienced and Visionary School Leader: The Head should have a proven record of strong internal and external leadership, vision articulation, complex decision making, and exemplary communication skills. The candidate must be a collaborative leader who is skilled in team building, effective delegation, and the recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty and staff. Experience in growing/sustaining enrollment will be a key consideration. The Head must excel in engaging the school's constituencies around a unifying vision and advancing the mission of the school through both friendraising and fundraising.

Mission and Values: The Head must have a passion for supporting innovative educational experiences, while firmly embracing the existing school culture. Candidates must support athletics, the visual and performing arts, and professional development for faculty and staff.

Educational Practitioner: The ideal candidate should have significant experience in an independent school setting. The candidate should also demonstrate strong management and delegation skills to elevate the school to a regional leadership position.

The Head should be reflective, transparent, and collaborative with the Board of Trustees, enhancing board policies and strategies, advancing the school's financial position, and increasing its annual fund and capital fundraising for long-term sustainability. The ideal candidate should be financially astute, capable of reviewing and managing budgets, operations, and capital investments wisely. The incoming Head of School must guide the school's investments in human resources, academic programs, technology, and facilities.

Responsibilities begin July 1, 2027.



Qualities, Qualifications, Challenges & Opportunities

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

In addition to skill with enrollment management, the successful candidate will possess:

- Strategic, long-range planning abilities
- Experience in hiring and retaining faculty and staff
- Faculty leadership and coaching ability
- Business and finance experience and acumen
- Head of School or considerable experience in a senior leadership position in an independent school setting

PERSONAL QUALITIES

The warm, close-knit community at Valwood expects a leader who possesses:

- A passion for education
- Effective communication skills
- Proven ability to inspire those around them
- Ease in making firm and fair decisions

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Valwood School has marvelous facilities on a beautiful campus and solid finances with a manageable debt. Valwood is recognized as the top independent school in the South Georgia area. Nonetheless, the next Head of School should be mindful of the following priorities:

- Building a strong enrollment against local challenges
- Remaining competitive with other area schools, public and private
- Continuing to articulate the school's value proposition
- Upholding standards of excellence
- Recruitment and retention of faculty and staff



Living in Valdosta, GA

Valdosta combines the warmth and connection of a close-knit community with the amenities and opportunities of a dynamic regional center. Located along the I-75 corridor in South Georgia, Valdosta serves as the economic, educational, and medical hub of a growing region. Lowndes County, one of the largest counties in Georgia outside the Atlanta metropolitan area, has experienced steady growth and offers an exceptional quality of life for families.

The community is home to Valdosta State University, South Georgia Medical Center, Moody Air Force Base, a strong local business community, and engaged civic leadership, all of which contribute to the vitality of the area and to the broad support for Valwood School. Residents enjoy attractive established neighborhoods, a reasonable cost of living, short commutes, excellent youth and recreational programs, and convenient access to the Georgia and Florida coasts. Valdosta also offers a wide range of opportunities for community involvement, including organizations such as Valdosta Country Club, a vibrant church community, and a variety of restaurants, shopping, and local events that contribute to the area's strong quality of life. Valwood is deeply woven into the fabric of the community, serving generations of families and many leaders across the region's professional, medical, educational, and business sectors.

For educational leaders seeking the opportunity to make a meaningful impact while raising a family in a supportive and engaged community, Valdosta offers a compelling environment.

How to Apply

Prospective candidates should submit the following materials in a single PDF document to the Search Consultants listed below.

- Letter expressing interest in Valwood specifically addressing the position and “why Valwood School?”
- Resume documenting education and work experience with dates
- Statement of educational philosophy
- List of five professional references with contact information

Valwood School admits students of any race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and further, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sexual orientation, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs, or otherwise discriminate in violation of federal, state or local law.



Search Consultants



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