

Opportunity Statement  
Principal (Head of School)  
Lake Country School, Minneapolis, MN  
For July 2019

The Board of Trustees of Lake Country School (LCS) in Minneapolis, MN is pleased to announce the opening of Principal. Lake Country is a Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade school with just over 300 hundred students and is among the strongest and best known independent Montessori schools in the country. Lake Country has, since its inception, been at the forefront of adapting the best of Montessori principles and practices to fit a contemporary context. As the school's fourth principal in its more than 40-year history, the successful candidate will build on the legacy of leadership founded by Pat and Larry Schaefer and continued through Kathy Coskran and Paulette Zoe. The Lake Country School (LCS) principalship is an extraordinary opportunity at a wonderful school in a vibrant and diverse community (see the [School Profile](#) for more background).

**Mission**

Lake Country School is a Montessori learning environment that fosters independence, critical thinking, and creativity within each child. We are a community that promotes diversity and inclusion, as well as respect and responsibility to self, to others and to the earth.

The next principal of this very successful school will tackle a three-part challenge: preserve and protect that which has made Lake Country School special; continue the work of adapting authentic Montessori principles in the contemporary context; and generate the resources LCS needs to thrive in the future. More specifically, the opportunity includes the following elements.

- Preserving and protecting that which has made Lake Country School special\
  - Child-centered learning environment;
  - Authentic Montessori pedagogy;
  - Welcoming and diverse community;
  - High levels of family involvement;
  - Culture of grace and civility; and
  - Longstanding traditions.

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- Leading the ongoing conversation about how to continue teaching and learning “guided by the principles and pedagogy of Dr. Maria Montessori and further enriched by the work of others in the fields of education and human development.”
  - Implementing the Facilities Master Plan to address the school’s space needs in accordance with the Strategic Plan.
  - Engaging with Development in the community’s fundraising initiatives to gather the resources necessary to sustain the school’s future and to further a culture of giving.
  - Ensuring that the school makes optimal use of its rural campus in Wisconsin.
  - Partnering with the LCS Board of Trustees in formulating strategy, overseeing the budget, and continuing the mission.

### **Leadership Attributes that Match Lake Country School**

- A **collaborative** leader who invites others into the decision-making process;
- An **active and visible** leader who welcomes and engages with the school community in all areas;
- An **engaged** leader who enjoys and welcomes interaction with students;
- A **respectful** leader who understands and appreciates Lake Country School’s unique history, values, and place among Montessori schools;
- A **good listener**, adept at hearing and accepting many different points of view;
- A **flexible and dedicated** leader, capable of adhering to authentic Montessori principles while adapting to contemporary science about teaching and learning, and;
- A **visionary** leader who will continue to guide LCS toward greater diversity and inclusion in the staff and student populations.

### **The Ideal Candidate**

The next Lake Country School principal will embody the above leadership attributes combined with a deep appreciation for Montessori practice (AMI or AMS training strongly preferred), an enthusiasm for living in a cosmopolitan city in the upper Midwest, and a record of successful experience teaching and leading in schools.

**Triangle Associates/Heads Up Educational Consulting** is conducting this search on the school’s behalf. Interested candidates should view the [search web site](#) and contact either of the principal consultants, [Marc Frankel](#) or [Judy Schechtman](#), for a confidential initial conversation.