**Head of Lower School**

**Position guide**

*“The Lovett School is a community that seeks to develop young men and women of honor, faith, and wisdom with the character and intellect to thrive in college and life.”*

**About the Lovett school** [www.lovett.org](http://www.lovett.org)

The Lovett School is situated on a gorgeous 100-acre campus in the Buckhead area of Atlanta next to the Chattahoochee River. The Lovett School offers a rich and progressive college-preparatory education rooted in learning, character, and community.  The school serves 1,620 students in grades K-12. Students at Lovett are inspired to challenge themselves in all aspects of school life: in the classroom, on the stage, in the studio, on the playing field, and in the community. One hundred percent of graduates are admitted to four-year colleges and are characterized by their strength of intellect as well as their force of character.  Read more about [The Lovett School’s Guiding Principles](http://www.lovett.org/page.cfm?p=7289) on their [website](http://www.lovett.org).

Rooted in the beliefs of its founder, Mrs. Eva Edwards Lovett, the school seeks to develop the whole child and offers coursework and programs that challenge students academically, aesthetically, athletically, and emotionally.  Bolstered by an exceptionally strong faculty with, on average, 17 years of teaching experience and who are actively engaged in their own professional development, Lovett is a premier national college preparatory school. The school has graduated more than 6,000 alumni who consistently note that Lovett’s liberal arts curriculum has prepared them well for their many endeavors, including Olympic competition, space exploration, and business entrepreneurship.

The Lovett School is committed to improving communities in Atlanta and across the world.  In 1996 it created Breakthrough Atlanta, a tuition-free academic enrichment program that now serves over 350 underserved students across Atlanta with weekend and summer programming.  In 1992 Lovett purchased 825 acres of cloud forest in Ecuador. Siempre Verde offers U.S. and Ecuadorian students an opportunity to learn conservation methods through research and the exchange of ideas.

The Lovett School operates a $60 million budget, and its endowment is currently valued at $100 million.  In 2015, Lovett completed its “Our Defining Decade” capital campaign in which it raised $94 million for capital improvements and additional endowments.  The school is in the process of redefining its strategic plan with a focus on cultivating excellence, promoting stewardship and sustainability in all forms, sharing the school’s story, and in creating a cohesive community.

**Lovett Students, Academics and Co-Curriculum**

Lovett selectively enrolls students from all ethnic, cultural, racial, and religious backgrounds who can benefit from the school’s challenging academic program, learning in small class sizes with favorable student-teacher ratios.  Approximately 23 percent of Lovett's students are students of color.

Students at Lovett actively engage in all areas of school life.  The school’s exemplary arts program provides instruction for students in the visual and performing arts, and its many sports teams are perennially successful.  More than 90% of students participate in a fine arts activity, and over 80% of students in grades 7 to12 play on at least one interscholastic athletic team. At Lovett, the fine arts are alive and thriving, with 47 professional -- and working -- artists, instructing courses in sculpture, photography, film, painting, drawing, theater arts, technical theater, chorus, orchestra, band, jazz ensemble, dance, and more.  Instruction is offered for 14 instruments as well as voice, and students have the opportunity to perform in recitals, plays, musical productions, concerts, chapel services, and school events.  Lovett’s athletic program allows students to develop skills and compete in a wide range of sports, including cross country, softball, football, volleyball, cheerleading, basketball, swimming, wrestling, baseball, lacrosse, tennis, golf, soccer, track, and gymnastics.  Its athletic facilities are superb and enviable.

In addition, students at Lovett are committed to making positive contributions to society. Students seek out service and sustainability activities that expose them to greater issues outside the school community and allow them to be active participants in discussions and solutions.  Lovett prides itself on providing a wealth of opportunities for its students in an environment that is as nurturing as it is challenging. Parents cite the school’s ability to “find the strengths in a child and pull them out,” and to develop “truly engaged and excited learners.”

Middle and Upper School students expand on the values and skills they learn in the Lower School, forming a community of active learners who work in concert for the development ofindividual and community success.  A comprehensive curriculum provides instruction in foreign language, math, social studies, language arts, science, fine arts, and athletics.  The school’s curriculum includes a chapel service that celebrates all religious beliefs and promotes good stewardship among the student body.

**Physical campus**

Located in a residential neighborhood of northwest Atlanta’s Buckhead area, Lovett is surrounded by lovely homes, canopies of old-growth hardwood trees, and some of the best restaurants, hotels, and shopping in the city.  The Lovett campus combines wooded natural beauty with well-designed, environmentally friendly structures. The 123,000-square foot, three-story Upper School opened in 2002 and features state-of-the-art classrooms, science labs, a greenhouse, and an independent research center.  This building also houses the Loudermilk Student Activities Center, home to the Glover Gymnasium, campus store, a student lounge, and the Lion’s Den Cafe, a popular gathering place for the secondary students. In 2003, the school completed construction on the Lower School, which includes its own library and gymnasium and is divided into three wings:  early childhood, primary, and elementary. In 2009, the new Portman Family Middle School opened and earned a LEED-gold certification.

Part of the Fuqua Center, the 650-seat Hendrix-Chenault Theater offers one of the Southeast’s most impressive performance venues.  The Center also includes state-of-the-art music and art rooms, a photography lab, exhibition gallery, recording studio, and Black Box theater.

Lovett’s athletic facilities rank among the best in the Southeast and include five grass and turf athletic fields, a stadium, a six-lane all-weather track, fourgymnasiums, an indoor track, indoor pool, extensive weight room, a wellness center, training room, an exceptional baseball/softball complex with two regulation fields, and batting cages. Railey Field is an artificial, all-weather, multipurpose turf playing field offering athletes valuable playing experience on an artificial surface.  The new LEED Gold-certified, 40,000 square-feet Murray Athletic Center was completed in July 2015, providing Lovett additional athletic and meeting spaces. Students can also take advantage of Lovett’s aerobics room, 10 tennis courts, and wooded trails.

**The POSITION**

Mrs. Lovett’s vision of educating the whole child is lived out in the Lower School, where purposeful collaboration and creative, critical thinking are rooted in integrated experiences that optimally challenge students. Teachers strive to nurture and model a growth mindset and help students embrace multiple perspectives, develop empathy and value the stories of others. As Mrs. Lovett notes in her New Deal in Education, this is a school that “offers an education of doing and creating,” where “the manner of doing something, is considered more important than the thing done.”

The school includes its own library and gymnasium and is divided into three wings: early childhood, primary and elementary. Enrichment in music, art, science, religion and language serve the varying grade levels. As a whole, the facility provides the support and infrastructure necessary for sustained academic and personal growth for each student.

In the classroom, Lower School teachers work with students to know themselves, become substantive contributors to the community and to engage with content with active minds. Educators are responsive to  individual student needs and actively involve them in their own learning. Students learn by doing in core components of college-preparatory education, including reading, writing, math, science, social studies, fine arts, religion, physical education, computer science and engineering and Spanish, which instill in them curiosity, creativity and confidence. Lovett maximizes student-teacher interactions with small class sizes and full-time assistant teachers in each classroom. The school’s highly acclaimed workshop approach to literacy makes it clear that we teach writers and readers, rather than teaching “writing” and “reading.” As burgeoning young authors, the model their styles after mentor texts, developing a passion for and interest in literature as they gain confidence in and understanding of their own skills.

Students have regularly scheduled classes in the inGen Studio, through which they explore computer science and its relationship to our everyday world, web tools and applications to communicate their ideas, and making and engineering to cultivate the creative problem-solving process. In 4th grade, the 1:1 laptop program begins, providing additional opportunities for student to conde, design physical and digital artifacts and explore robotics.

Students become engaged and active members of the school community early in their Lovett education. The Lower School’s Student Service Council (SSC) allows students in grades three through five to plan and execute service projects in the Atlanta community. Students pick groups and/or projects they are interested in supporting. The SSC also works with groups like the Humane Society, Canine Assistants and the American Red Cross.

Lovett offers a variety of after-school programs that provide enrichment for students but also support for families.  Lovett’s After School Activities Program (ASAP) provides childcare until 6:00 p.m. on school days. Students are grouped by grade level and participate in age-appropriate activities including; arts and crafts, cooking as well as sports and games. Additionally, a homework room for students in grades two through five provides 45-60 minutes of quiet time for homework daily.

The Afternoon Enrichment Program offers students exposure to high-quality programs led by experienced instructors. Students can take yoga, dance, play tennis and learn engineering fundamentals with LEGO’s among other exciting after-school activities.

Lower School teachers “love their community” and the school’s instructional emphasis on the whole child. They find that Lovett gives them instructional flexibility inside a thoughtful and coherent curricular structure. The adult culture of Lovett is intentional and professional, with a decidedly strong work ethic. Faculty feel well-supported both personally and professionally by administration and colleagues.

The school seeks an inspiring, energetic and nurturing Lower School Principal to lead this learning community of over 500 students and faculty. Reporting to the Assistant Head of School for Academic Affairs and working closely with Lovett’s senior leadership team, the next Lower School Principal will lead an experienced group of teachers committed to bringing out the best in students. Lovett seeks an educational leader with a strong commitment to academic excellence as well as whole-child development, a proven record of successful leadership, effective communication and passion for the education of young learners. The most promising candidates will be leaders who understand the synergies required to collaborate across all divisions and aspects of a large independent school.

Success factors for the position include:

* Modeling and championing Lovett’s mission, values  and strategic plan
* Capacity for leading change, collaborating across a broad range of constituencies, and inspiring diverse groups of individuals toward a common goal.
* Ensuring that the Lower School curriculum demonstrates clear, measurable goals and subject areas are both balanced and integrated.
* Deep understanding of restorative discipline practices and a clear approach to accountability
* Outstanding communication, collaboration, problem-solving, and planning abilities. Models transparency and timeliness in communication with Lower School constituents.
* Actively refines the transition process to Middle School.
* Possesses a record of accomplishment in managing and developing teams, superb social skills with the desire and ability to forge productive relationships.
* Intentionally creating and supporting a diverse community
* Broad experience and skills in fiscal management and planning.
* Strong work ethic, servant leadership and an influential and diplomatic work style. Visible, accessible, inclusive, and fair-minded
* Knowledge of Lovett and Atlanta communities would be an advantage.
* A bachelor’s degree is required; an advanced degree is preferred.

**Application**

The Lovett School has engaged The Finney Group to conduct a nationwide search for this position. To be considered for this opportunity, please send resumes and letters of interest to:

***Sherm Bristow with The Finney Group through email: sbristow@thefinneysearchgroup.com***

*The Lovett School does not discriminate on the basis of any category protected by applicable Federal, State, or Local law, including but not limited to, race, color, gender, pregnancy, religion, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, gender identity and expression, genetic information, or service member status with respect to qualified persons in the administration of the School’s employment practices, admission policies, educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic programs, or other School administered programs.*