



Portsmouth Abbey School

Portsmouth, Rhode Island



Head of School Search

Portsmouth Abbey School, located on the beautiful shore of Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island, is seeking its next Head of School to carry forth its Benedictine heritage and commitment to academic excellence in the Catholic tradition.



Mission

Portsmouth Abbey School helps young men and women grow in knowledge and grace. As a Benedictine boarding and day school committed to excellence, we embrace the Catholic faith while nurturing reverence for God and the human person, love of learning, and commitment to community life.

“Our mission statement includes ‘we embrace the Catholic faith.’ Portsmouth Abbey School does not simply educate in a historic and abstract Benedictine Catholic tradition. We embrace the Catholic faith, grounded in the truth of Jesus Christ, as the path to human flourishing.”

Dr. Mary Beth Klee P'04
Member of the Board of Regents



Portsmouth Abbey School

Since 1926, Portsmouth Abbey School has been preparing students for lives of significance and purpose. Portsmouth Abbey combines a classical education in the Catholic intellectual tradition with Benedictine values, innovative electives, and opportunities in athletics and the performing and visual arts, all of which add up to a unique experience that only the Abbey can offer. We are a community that values each of its members and is characterized by friendship and joy. The warm and open nature of our community enables students to better understand themselves and the world around them. We celebrate student achievements, and we offer help to those in need not only to make *ours* a more gracious world but also to model a society our graduates will build.

At Portsmouth Abbey, we believe that love of learning leads to the desire for God, that the quest for intellectual understanding propels students to the search for ultimate meaning. We encourage students to engage in both pursuits. Grounded in the things that matter, we seek to inspire our students to become the next generation's leaders, stewards, innovators, and problem solvers, all the while guided by Benedictine values of love of God and neighbor, humility, hospitality, and a desire to serve the common good.

More than 350 students call our school home and within it find a place to build friendships, create traditions, and grow within our inclusive setting. With a campus population composed of U.S. and international boarding students, local day students, and faculty, staff, and Benedictines representing best in class professionals, there is an unparalleled spirit at the Abbey.

Academics, Arts, Athletics

- ▶ Our wide range of academic offerings satisfies and nurtures the *curiosity* of all of our students. They leave the Abbey eager to learn more. They are prepared for the academic rigor of colleges and universities thanks to our small class sizes, passionate teachers, and engaging content.
- ▶ Students have numerous opportunities to *create* and engage in the pursuit of beauty through visual arts, drama, music, and more. As part of our liberal arts curriculum, we have kept artistic endeavor alive and thriving at the Abbey.
- ▶ Each student has an opportunity to *compete* on one or more of our 43 teams. Our athletics programs offer lessons in sportsmanship, cooperation, resilience, self-discipline, and leadership.

These offerings, steeped in faith and found at this idyllic venue conveniently situated close to major cities and with outstanding facilities, reflect the commitment to excellence that is the Abbey.



Opportunity

The incoming Head will be exceptionally positioned to lead the school through its 100th anniversary in 2026 and into its second century. Graced with the close-knit Portsmouth Abbey School family, the Head will be supported by intellectually talented faculty and staff, an engaged and invested Board of Regents, and the Portsmouth Institute for Faith and Culture, the school's own think tank to encourage the restoration of Christian culture in the spirit of St. Benedict. The selected candidate will have ample resources and opportunities to further the exemplary reputation and impact of Portsmouth Abbey and do so in a location of incomparable beauty and history.

The Head is privileged to champion a school that cares deeply about young adults coming to know the good, the true, and the beautiful; that seeks academic excellence and spiritual flourishing; that is multigenerational, international, Catholic, and Benedictine to its core.

The future Head of School will be eager and ready to look forward, focused on the challenges of the 21st century, our changing student body, and new technologies and approaches that allow us to meet those needs. While not arriving with all of the answers in hand, a new Head, committed to the Abbey mission, will be uniquely situated to ensure our students can navigate those waters.

Portsmouth Abbey Head of School

The Head of School must be a practicing Catholic who endorses and can passionately articulate and sell the mission. He/she must understand or be willing to learn the Benedictine tradition and support the Monastery's governance role and involvement in the life of the school.

**525
Acres
on Campus**



**43
Athletics Teams**



**10 student science
grants each year**

**350
Students**

**5:1 student
teacher ratio,
80% faculty
with advanced
degrees**



**75 Courses
19 AP Courses**



**71% Accepted
to Colleges and
Universities
rated "most" or "highly"
competitive by Barron's**

The 10 Hallmarks of Benedictine Education

- 1 Love of Christ and neighbor**
- 2 Prayer:** A life marked by liturgy, lectio and mindfulness
- 3 Stability:** commitment to the daily life of this place, its heritage and tradition
- 4 Conversatio:** the way of formation and transformation
- 5 Obedience:** a commitment to listening and consequent action
- 6 Discipline:** a way toward learning and freedom
- 7 Humility:** knowledge of self in relation to God, others and creation
- 8 Stewardship:** responsible use of creation, culture and the arts
- 9 Hospitality:** openness to the other
- 10 Community:** call to serve the common good



Qualifications

- ▶ Mission driven with a gracious, welcoming, and outgoing personality.
- ▶ Strategic and visionary leader grounded in the values and mission of Portsmouth Abbey School, able to integrate historic Benedictine values with 21st-century vision.
- ▶ Proven success leading within an educational institution, as well as serving as a visible and credible leader and ambassador with external constituencies.
- ▶ Familiar with and capable of discerning academic excellence in the Catholic intellectual tradition at the secondary school level.
- ▶ Commitment to contemporary excellence and innovation in academics, athletics, and student life; attentive to evolving student needs and advances in education.
- ▶ Collaborative and empowering management style with track record of cross-functional teams successfully executing on a common set of priorities in keeping with the school mission.
- ▶ Capable of building strong relationships with and among students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, universities, and the local community.
- ▶ Superb communication and networking skills.
- ▶ Boarding school with international enrollment experience a plus.

Priorities

Priorities for the incoming Head of School include...

- ▶ Finalize and execute on the strategic plan.
- ▶ Attract optimal number and mission-aligned enrollment.
- ▶ Recruit, motivate, coach, and retain mission-driven, best in class faculty.
- ▶ Create an increasingly diverse student body and faculty.
- ▶ Integrate advancement programs and offices for enhanced performance.
- ▶ Actively engage in the solicitation of leadership gifts in support of strategic initiatives.
- ▶ Oversee 100th anniversary planning.

"If you have a love of our Catholic faith and a passion for education, and wish to lead an outstanding boarding and day school in a stunning part of New England, there is no better job than this."

John Bohan, Parent
Member of the Board of Regents



A division of Christian Brothers Services

Catholic School Management
cbservices.org/csm.html

Salary / Benefits

The Head of School position is available as of July 1, 2022. This is a full-time position. Salary and benefits are highly competitive and commensurate with experience and qualifications. The Head of School role includes on-campus housing.

Application Procedure

Portsmouth Abbey School has engaged Catholic School Management, a division of Christian Brothers Services, to facilitate this search. Interested and qualified candidates should submit electronically a letter of introduction; a resume; five professional references (names, email addresses, and telephone numbers); and a written essay of no more than 500 words answering the question:

In an increasingly secular world, how can the Head of School "sell" the mission of an authentically Benedictine school that is both invitational and intentionally Catholic?

For more information about Portsmouth Abbey School, please visit www.portsmouthabbey.org.

Application materials should be issued no later than October 29, 2021. Portsmouth Abbey School reserves the right to hire prior to the deadline date should an ideal candidate apply. Finalists will be subject to a criminal background check and pre-employment drug screening. Send application materials to:

**Portsmouth Abbey School
Head of School Search**
Catholic School Management
Attn: Mary J. Foley at
csmoffice@cbservices.org