

The American School in London



Middle School Principal Search

Position starts July 1, 2025
London, England



EDUCATORS COLLABORATIVE
EXPERTS IN SEARCH, TRANSITION & STRATEGY



About ASL

The American School in London is an independent, college-preparatory, preK-12 day school, providing an exceptional American education to an international student body in the heart of London. We celebrate innovation and individuality, and applaud academic success. Students thrive amid high expectations and the joy of authentic learning experiences. Through the lens of intercultural competency, we inspire students to engage with others across lines of difference in a changing world.

Mission Statement

The American School in London empowers each student to thrive as a lifelong learner and courageous global citizen by fostering intellect, creativity, inclusivity and character.

Respect

We treat others the way we expect to be treated. We value diversity of thought and expression.

Responsibility

We take ownership of our words and actions. We fulfill our obligations to ourselves and others.

Kindness

We act with compassion. We help others.

Integrity

We are honest. We make the right choice even when nobody is watching.

The Courage to Act

We have the courage to speak up for ourselves and for others. We take positive action to make our community and world a better place.



History

The American School in London (ASL) was established in 1951 by Stephen L. Eckard, an American journalist and former teacher residing in London.



Initially housed in Eckard's Knightsbridge flat, the school began with 13 students. The school quickly gained popularity, prompting a move to larger premises in Chelsea within six months. Over the years, ASL expanded, relocating to various properties and adding facilities such as sports grounds in Regent's Park.

The first high school graduation took place in 1960, marking a significant milestone for Eckard and the school. In 1964, the Board of Trustees initiated a fundraising campaign for a dedicated school building, which was completed in 1971 and inaugurated by notable figures including Margaret Thatcher.



ASL has a rich history, including events such as Elton John's performance in 1973. Notable figures like US presidents Truman, Reagan, Clinton, and Obama have interacted with ASL students.

ASL continued to evolve, with expansions in 2000 and 2008, and further developments such as the Community Arts Building and Aquatic & Fitness Center in 2016.

In 2021, ASL celebrated its 70th anniversary. ASL has more than 15,000 alumni living in 77 countries.

For more on the history of ASL, click [here](#).





Portrait of a Learner

Our ASL community worked together to identify the traits that exemplify what it is to be a learner at the American School in London. The result of this collaboration is a group of characteristics that are unique to our school.

These essential traits are evident every day at ASL; in our classrooms, at Canons Park, in our hallways, at recess, in the Staff Lounge, on field trips and at school events.

There is a thinker, an explorer, a collaborator, an innovator and a communicator within every student. We care about our well-being, and show respect, responsibility, kindness and integrity in the lives we lead. We value and encourage these characteristics in others. More than anything, we have the courage to act.

Intercultural Competency

Developing cultural competency is at the heart of an effective learning experience and a critical capability for students to acquire in order to flourish in our diverse world.

Cultural competence is defined as an ongoing process by which individuals and institutions respond respectfully and effectively to people of all cultures in a manner that recognizes, affirms and values their multiple identities. Cultural competency is the ability to be your whole self with people who are not like you. As a community, we hold a growth mindset at the center of our beliefs and thus, we are all in the process of moving forward in the intercultural competency continuum.

Diversity, Equity And Inclusion Statement

The American School in London (ASL) is committed to building and sustaining a diverse, equitable and inclusive school community. Our strength is in our diversity. We are committed to providing equitable access to all facets of school life. ASL is dedicated to fostering an inclusive school environment in which members can thrive and be themselves in a fully authentic manner.

ASL upholds the right to an educational experience in which diverse identities, experiences and ideas are recognized and human dignity is affirmed. Diversity develops better collaborators, braver explorers, stronger



communicators, greater innovators and deeper thinkers. From the time children enter the School, they learn to celebrate their differences and similarities, confront stereotypes and biases, and develop an understanding of historical and contemporary struggles and victories in the face of injustice. Through this education, students are empowered to advocate for a more just world and acquire the skills to be courageous global citizens.

Creating a diverse, equitable and inclusive school community is an ever-evolving journey. We challenge ourselves to do this work on a personal and institutional level, with empathy and mutual respect. Building and sustaining a diverse, equitable and inclusive school community is the responsibility of all. Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion holds the promise of a better future for all our children.



Fundamental British values

As an independent day school, providing an exceptional American education to an international student body in the heart of London, we join with our host country in promoting the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

As citizens of a vibrant democracy, we fulfill our obligations to ourselves and to others. In our classrooms, innovation and individuality are celebrated, and outstanding academic success is applauded. Students thrive amid the joy of authentic learning experiences. High expectations are clearly communicated and students take ownership of their words and actions. We value diversity of thought and experience and we treat others the way we expect to be treated. Within our school community of more than 65 nationalities and numerous faiths, we express mutual respect and tolerance for those with different beliefs. Committed to creating courageous global citizens, we inspire students to engage with others across lines of difference in a changing world.



Sustainability Policy

The American School in London is committed to sustainability and continuously improving environmental performance. ASL has a duty to provide its students and employees with the knowledge and skills to manage its resources wisely.

To learn more about ASL's Sustainability Policy, click [here](#).





Middle School Curriculum (Grades 5 - 8)

The Middle School offers a caring and academically rich environment in which all students are challenged to pursue their passions and reach their potential. Middle school is a time marked by great change in an individual's life. During these years, adolescents develop their sense of self and their relationship with the world around them. Our community of caring and talented educators is committed to nurturing, inspiring and challenging each student at this important stage of his or her development.

During Grades 5-8, students experience a dramatic shift in their cognitive abilities as they move from a concrete mode of thought to a more abstract level of thinking. To foster this growth, the curriculum is structured to guide students in making connections and seeing relationships among subject areas and with the world beyond the classroom. Instruction in critical thinking and study skills is integrated into interdisciplinary units and projects. The schedule is designed to maximize flexibility and enable the faculty to incorporate a wide variety of experiential learning and extended field studies, which make the most of the school's unique location in Great Britain.

Independence and organization are stressed throughout the program as students learn to carry out research and use a wide variety of technologies to enhance the acquisition, analysis, communication and presentation of information. Teachers meet individual student needs through a variety of teaching strategies, which emphasize active learning, a student-centered approach and utilizing a variety of assessment techniques. The goal is to promote academic excellence and provide a supportive and creative atmosphere to cultivate a lifelong love of learning.

The preadolescent's rapid intellectual growth initiates great emotional and social changes. The Middle School seeks to nurture close, trusting relationships with adults and peers to create a positive climate for personal growth, and to help students deal successfully with change and transition. Homeroom/ advisor group time provides students with the opportunity to share interests and concerns, and experience the encouragement of their classmates and teachers. Students receive additional support from full-time counselors as well as health classes at each grade level. At this time in their lives, middle school students need to explore their unique talents and interests in a supportive and non-evaluative setting. The middle school After-school Program offers students an ever-changing menu of athletic, social and artistic activities.

The Middle School hopes to create a caring and supportive school community that values diversity and encourages responsible citizenship. Students have a wide variety of leadership opportunities through student



Explore the Middle School Curriculum, Assessment, Schedule and Rules, Policies and Behavior by clicking on the links below.

- To know more about each **subject**, click [here](#).
- To know more about each **grade**, click [here](#).
- To know more about the **assessment**, click [here](#).
- [Eight-day cycle](#)
- [Rules, Policies and Behavior](#)

government and athletic activities. The service learning program is an integral part of the life of each middle school student and helps them to grow in confidence as they participate in on- and off-campus service opportunities.

The Middle School recognizes that each student has their own unique timetable for physical development. Preadolescents often experience awkwardness and fatigue during rapid growth spurts. The physical education program is designed to address these needs and the after-school athletics program offers a wide variety of team and individual sports opportunities.

The middle school faculty is knowledgeable about and committed to the interests and needs of the young adolescent learner and recognizes that a successful middle school experience is the result of a close partnership among student, teachers and parents/guardians. The aim is to build these relationships.

Middle School Advisory

ASL's middle school's advisory program is a cornerstone of our commitment to nurturing well-rounded students.

Our advisory program, rooted in the acclaimed [RULER](#) approach from Yale University's Center for Emotional Intelligence, empowers students to cultivate crucial social-emotional skills alongside their academic development. By utilizing RULER tools like the Mood Meter, Charter, and Meta-Moment, our advisors facilitate activities and discussions that help students recognize and regulate emotions, foster meaningful relationships, and make responsible choices. We prioritize relationship-building, guiding RULER implementation, and maintaining transparent communication with families. This holistic approach underscores our dedication to nurturing emotional intelligence, empathy, and lifelong well-being, fostering a supportive educational environment centered on holistic growth and community.





Extracurricular

At ASL, we believe that a dynamic and diverse extracurricular program is an essential element of the character and educational development of its students. Our dedicated faculty and staff are committed to providing the best possible learning environment for its students in their physical, cognitive and social development.

Athletics

The athletics department provides co-curricular opportunities for students to gain transferable skills through physical activity and athletic competition. We welcome participation by all, with a focus on enjoyment and good sportsmanship. Our aim is to foster lifelong learning and resilience through character-building and teamwork.

ASL is well equipped to support a wide range of sports, over three seasons. Students are able to take advantage of our first-rate sports facilities, which include a state-of-the-art Aquatic and Fitness Center on campus, comprising a swimming pool, fitness room and dance studio, complimented by our two gyms and multi-purpose spaces. And our 22-acre playing fields are located at Canons Park, a short tube-ride away

Our athletic trainers are available to help ASL students with injuries and injury prevention. Athletic trainers are healthcare professionals who collaborate with physicians and specialize in prevention, emergency care, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of sport-related injuries and illnesses.

Grade 7-12 competitive sports

Spring sports:

- Baseball
- Crew
- tennis
- Track and Field
- Golf
- Softball
- Volleyball (MS only)

Fall Sports:

- Crew
- Cross country
- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Field hockey
- Tennis (MS only)

Winter Sports:

- Basketball
- Crew
- Rugby
- Swim



Middle School After-School Program

The Middle School after-school program provides an opportunity for students to explore their interests, passions and hobbies in a fun, group setting. The program is free of charge for ASL families, and students in every middle school grade are encouraged to participate.

Robotics

The robotics program at ASL empowers each student to thrive as a lifelong learner and courageous global citizen by fostering intellect, creativity, inclusivity and character within the context of age-appropriate robotics challenges. From after-school program classes for younger students to competitive robotics in the High School, students are encouraged to become thinkers, explorers, collaborators and innovators. In addition to a variety of technical skills, students learn valuable communication skills and have numerous opportunities to demonstrate respectfulness, responsibility, kindness and integrity.



K-12 Learn to Swim

ASL offers a varied program of water activities for students of all abilities in the School's 25-meter swimming pool, located in the Aquatic & Fitness Center. From building water confidence for beginners, to preparation for competition for advanced swimmers, the K-12 pool program has something for everyone.

Community Action

ASL's community action program provides students with invaluable opportunities to learn and grow by taking considered and consequential action in our community. Our program is greatly enriched by our outstanding connections with our local community partners. These links give our students the opportunity to move beyond ASL and connect with and learn from the broader London community.



Community action is integral to our core values, offering opportunities that cultivate respect for diversity, inspire social responsibility, encourage kindness, promote integrity, and empower our students to have the courage to act.

Projects are driven by our students' curiosity about the world in which we live, and draw upon their interests, talents, determination and sense of justice. The program enriches every aspect of the School, extending learning both within and beyond the curriculum.



Summer Program

The ASL Summer Program blends an exciting mix of outdoor and indoor sports, and creative activities for children age 4-18. Based at our Waverley Place campus and at our playing fields in Canons Park, participants discover new interests, build self-confidence, and learn how to work and play as a group. The Summer Program is open to children from all schools.

Middle School Lunch Groups

Lunch groups take place during the hour in the middle of the day set aside for students to eat and go outside to recess. Some groups meet for only 30 minutes during the students' recess time, other groups meet for the full hour and offer students time to eat their lunch during the meeting. Lunch group options are always changing.

To explore the full scope of all the extracurricular activities offered at ASL, click [here](#).

Facilities and Services

The Aquatic & Fitness Center

Our top-flight facilities have all you need to help you and your family stay active, including a 25m six-lane swimming pool, a well-equipped fitness room offering free weights and cardiovascular machines, and a multi-purpose room for fitness activities and classes.

Make, Innovate, Learn Lab (MILL)

The state-of-the-art Makerspace is a resource for the whole school, regardless of age or subject. The lab director works with teachers to add modeling, three-dimensionality, and design thinking to elements of the curriculum. Student's imaginations and inventions are brought to life with 3D printers, sewing machines, wood-working materials, laser cutters, and large format printers. The space, which is over 2000 square feet is also a hub for the robotics program.

Libraries

The mission of the Lower School Library and the Mellon Library at ASL is to ensure that our students, staff and community gain the knowledge and skills to be effective and conscientious users of ideas and information. We aim to foster a love of literature and learning, and to provide quality print and electronic resources that support the needs and interests of our students, staff and community.





Canons Park

Just a short, direct tube ride from ASL (eleven stops on the Jubilee line), students can be transported to over 20 acres of our very own sports playing fields to train and compete in activities such as baseball, rugby, softball and soccer.

Boathouse

The Boathouse is owned by the University of London Boat Club whom we rent boat racking space from. There are a number of colleges from the University of London who row out of the facility along with the main University Team as well as London Oratory School. With four launches at the Boathouse, we also have 32 of our own rowing boats with professional equipment such as megaphones, lifejackets, and associated tools. The location of the boathouse allows our rowers to use a beautiful stretch of the River Thames where the tidal flow is slower. We have rowers at the boathouse six days of the week with the Performance Squad, Development Squad and Grade 8 Program alternating across the six days.

School Center

The School Center for Education and the Arts is a flexible teaching and performance space. The design was inspired by the Royal National Theatre and provides seating for an audience of up to 450. The space is rarely empty, hosting assemblies, Speakers Series events and performing arts productions.

School Services

School services at ASL include catering, security, health and transport.

Technology

We recognize the importance of technology in the modern world; information technology education is therefore an integral part of our curriculum. We also strive to ensure our students have the resources they require to thrive.



Board of Trustees

The American School in London is governed by a Board of Trustees, which oversees the school's adherence to its mission and values; appoints, supports, evaluates and works closely with the Head of School; oversees financial and institutional affairs; and conducts periodic strategic planning for the growth and evolution of the School. The Board works in partnership with the Head of School and delegates the responsibility for the day-to-day administration, programming and operations of the School to the Head.

Parent Community Association at ASL

The mission of the Parent Association at ASL is to foster a strong sense of community among parents, students, and staff while supporting the school's mission and values. This typically involves organizing events and activities that promote parent involvement, communication, and collaboration within the school community. The Parent Association often works closely with the school administration to address the needs and concerns of parents and students, and to enhance the overall educational experience at ASL.

Accreditation

ASL is accredited by the Department for Education (DfE) and The Middle States Association (MSA). ASL has been accredited by MSA for several decades and by the Department for Education (DfE) since 2006. ASL is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools, the Council of International Schools, the Independent Schools Association (ISA), and the Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE).

Leadership Attributes for the next Middle School Principal

The middle school principal's role encompasses overseeing all aspects of the student experience. This includes ensuring each student's optimal academic, physical, and social development. The principal is expected to monitor internal and external benchmarks related to academic performance, ensuring that ASL students are achieving at their fullest potential.

The development of meaningful professional growth opportunities for faculty and staff is a critical aspect of this position. Particular focus is on initiatives that align with well-articulated goals and contribute to a strong professional learning community within the school. Additionally, the Middle School Principal maintains financial oversight of the Middle School budget, ensuring that fiscal decisions support established educational goals and priorities.

Alongside the Head of School, the Middle School Principal plays a pivotal role in recruiting, developing, and evaluating teachers, effectively managing workloads, and identifying future staffing needs to ensure the faculty remains robust and capable of delivering exceptional education. As a member of the Administrative Team, the Middle School Principal engages in strategic planning, budgeting, and decision-making to advance the school's overall mission and objectives.

In summary, the Middle School Principal must be a thought leader committed to a nurturing, supportive, and academically challenging environment where every student can thrive. Through effective leadership, collaboration, and strategic oversight, the Middle School leader promotes a culture committed to upholding ASL's mission and preparing students for success in their academic journey and beyond.

Essential Qualifications/experience:

- A minimum of three to five years' experience as head of a large academic division or a related senior leadership role within a Middle School setting
- An advanced degree and evidence of promoting "best-practice" in middle-level education
- Understanding of and experience leading a school using a US curriculum
- Experience using assessment to inform instruction and a commitment to accountability for student learning
- A personal commitment to ongoing professional learning
- A track record of successful relationships ensuring that parents see themselves as partners in their child's education
- A genuine appreciation of middle school students and a deep understanding of their developmental needs
- Evidence of successfully recruiting, retaining, evaluating, and developing professional staff
- Experiencing managing budgets and overseeing multiple aspects of the school's physical environment
- Experience in planning, budgeting and contributing as a leadership team member.



Summary of the Search Process

Candidates interested in this position are asked to submit the following materials in a single merged pdf file to Mary Seppala and Pilar Cabeza de Vaca as soon as possible. Dossiers will be reviewed upon receipt.

- EC Summary Sheet (Contact Mary Seppala or Pilar Cabeza de Vaca for this document)
- Letter of Interest addressed to the Search Committee
- Current Resume
- Statement of Educational Leadership Philosophy
- A list of five or more references with contact information (name, relationship to candidate, phone and email address)
- Disclosure Statement (Contact Mary Seppala or Pilar Cabeza de Vaca for this document)

Send application materials via email to:

Mary Seppala, Partner, Educators Collaborative

Email: maryseppala@gmail.com

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Front Cover: Big Ben London, <https://shorturl.at/Y60iB>, June 7, 2024

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