

# STUART

COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART



**HEAD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD AND LOWER SCHOOL**

Princeton, New Jersey

**Position Starts July 1, 2025**



**EDUCATORS COLLABORATIVE**

EXPERTS IN SEARCH, TRANSITION & STRATEGY



## A THRIVING EARLY CHILDHOOD AND LOWER SCHOOL COMMUNITY

When one listens to members of the Stuart Country Day School community—students, teachers, parents, and administrators alike—it becomes immediately clear that the school has a distinct and powerful culture. In the words of one faculty member, “It’s a true, authentic culture where the faculty and children feel safe to be themselves, be vulnerable, take risks and build trust. It’s very intentional.”

This culture is a natural outgrowth of the school’s mission to educate girls and to do so in the Sacred Heart tradition. But it goes beyond those two distinct aspects of Stuart’s ethos. The school is unusually close-knit. One administrator, comparing her current experience with those at other schools, observed that she has never felt so supported in her role as she does at Stuart.

As the entry-point to Stuart, the Early Childhood Program and Lower School together set a tone that is carried forward throughout the entire Stuart student experience. Stuart’s Early Childhood and Lower School teachers are praised for their care and nurturing approach to their students. In the words of one parent, “Our first child started in preK last year and we were so impressed with the quality of care and attention to detail and rigor, at the same time paying attention to the values.” While faculty members cover the range from relatively new to deeply experienced, they share a common philosophy about how they approach their craft. They are united in their commitment to growing as experts within their field and enthusiastically support Stuart’s mission and values.

### AT A GLANCE

- **Established:** 1963
- **Number of Students:** 289, of which 98 are enrolled in the Early Childhood Program and Lower School
- **Teaching Faculty:** 44
- **Average Class Size:** 13 students
- **Student to Teacher Ratio:** 6:1

## About Princeton, New Jersey

Princeton, New Jersey is a charming town whose center is 1½ miles from the School's beautiful and leafy campus. Anchored by Princeton University, and featuring a wide variety of cultural and historic attractions, Princeton is immensely livable and thus one of the most desired locations in New Jersey in which to reside and raise a family. Moreover, New York City and Philadelphia are both easily accessible from Princeton by train.



## A FLOURISHING PS-12 SCHOOL WITH A STORIED HISTORY AND BRIGHT FUTURE

Situated on a stunning 55-acre campus located minutes from the heart of Princeton, New Jersey, Stuart Country Day School has served the community since its founding in 1963. While the school's Early Childhood Program and junior kindergarten are coeducational, the remaining grades (K-12) at Stuart are all girls, reflecting the belief that girls and young women thrive when they are given the space to grow and flourish in an environment specifically designed for them.

Stuart was founded in 1963, when a group of parents and Sacred Heart alumnae presented a request for a school in Princeton to the Superior of the Washington Province of the Society of the Sacred Heart. The Society of the Sacred Heart is a religious congregation of women founded in France in 1800 by Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat and brought to North America in 1818 by Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne. Its mission is to show forth the love of God through education.

With the help of the Society of the Sacred Heart and of friends in the area, a large tract of woodlands was purchased on the Great Road, and Professor Jean Labatut of Princeton University was appointed architect. It was decided to name the school for Mother Janet Erskine Stuart, who was born in England in 1857 and became one of the world's leading and most respected educators of women.

Today, Stuart sees its history and mission come alive when it looks at the profile of its current community and the programs it has established to support its students. Graduates of Stuart attend the top colleges and universities in the country, including (from the class of 2024) Princeton, Cornell, Stevens Institute of Technology, Duke, Cornell, and NYU. More than a third of last year's graduating class intends to major in STEM fields with an additional third pursuing studies in business. In the words of the school, a Stuart graduate:

- has a personal and informed faith, the foundation for a loving and compassionate heart. She is culturally responsive and through conversations with those of diverse beliefs, she gains a deep understanding of and respect for the religions of the world.
- is intellectually curious and a lifelong seeker of knowledge. She is a confident and self-aware learner who thinks critically, finds value in collaboration, and demonstrates resilience by approaching the most formidable challenges as opportunities for growth.
- recognizes and is thankful for her unique gifts and talents and embraces them with confidence, dignity, and integrity. With a commitment to personal growth, a Stuart graduate is invested in her achievements while maintaining balance in her life.
- is a powerful agent for change. She is a forward-thinker and an innovative leader who takes bold risks.
- expresses herself in her passions and pursuits, whether they are in public speaking, athletics, the arts, or take any other form.
- goes into an ever-evolving world with empathy and uses her voice to advocate for equity, justice, and peace for all. As an active global citizen, a Stuart graduate embraces community—locally and globally—and models the importance of service.



### Explore What Makes Stuart Distinctive

- [The Tartan Talk Podcast](#)
- [Special Traditions](#)
- [The Sacred Heart Network of Schools](#)
- [Before and After School Programs](#)





## A SCHOOL WITH A CLEAR IDENTITY

As the only all-girls independent school in the area, Stuart occupies a distinct place in the market. The school emphasizes its commitment to all-girls education throughout all of its programs and messaging. The [National Center for Girls' Leadership](#) at Stuart is just one of many examples of initiatives that the school has taken to champion the education of girls. Families are drawn to Stuart because of this commitment. In the words of one parent, "Our daughter chose Stuart. What was powerful was the sense that girls could do anything."

Equally important at Stuart is being part of the network of Sacred Heart schools. While the majority of students at the school do not identify as Catholic, faith is an important aspect of life at the school and the goals that are common to all Sacred Heart schools are regularly reinforced in the daily life of students. Moreover, older students benefit from being part of the Sacred Heart network by having the opportunity to take part in exchange programs with 150 Sacred Heart schools around the world while students in eighth grade have an opportunity to exchange with other Network students in the United States.

### Sacred Heart Goals

- A personal and active faith in God
- A deep respect for intellectual values
- A social awareness which impels to action
- Building of community as a Christian value
- Personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom

## A School with a Living History of Inclusion

Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat called on Sacred Heart communities to model respect, compassion, forgiveness and generosity.

Therefore, Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart joins other schools in the Sacred Heart Network who are called to live their daily lives promoting universal respect, in which each person is honored, loved and cared for, and where young women are educated to an understanding of and deep respect for diversity.

Stuart Country Day School believes that a diverse community challenges us to make God's love visible in the world, improves our lives as we learn and grow together and affords each of us a deeper understanding of our collective humanity.

Stuart expects that all members of its community, being guided by a spirit of love, accept individuals' differences, which include, but are not limited to, ability, age, ethnicity, family structure, gender, learning style, race, religion, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status.

The school believes that all in its community should feel valued and respected, be able to share their knowledge and gifts and be given the opportunity to thrive as equal contributors in enriching life at Stuart.



## **FUTURE LEADERSHIP PROFILE**

Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart seeks a leader who enthusiastically embraces and champions the School's mission, which is grounded in providing a strong academic program that prepares students for continued educational success.

The successful candidate will be a leader distinguished by a warm, welcoming, and inclusive personal manner, exceptional verbal and written communication skills, a commitment to the School's mission, a love for guiding young learners, and a dedication to nurturing a culture of dignity and respect. They will also bring the skills, initiative, and drive to help further realize a compelling, and sustainable vision for the future of the Early Childhood Program and Lower School.

Stuart Country Day School of the Sacred Heart is conducting a national search to identify its next Head of Early Childhood and Lower School. Search consultant George Sanderson of Educators Collaborative solicited input from all stakeholders during an on-campus visit and gathered additional input from stakeholders through an online survey. Based on this input, the following represents a summary of the Early Childhood Program and Lower School's strengths, challenges and opportunities, and the skills and attributes desired in the next Head of Early Childhood and Lower School of Stuart.

### **Strengths of The School**

- Stuart's mission is clear and distinct. The school has a very clear sense of its culture, and thus attracts families that are aligned with its values.



- Stuart is justifiably proud of its close community. The school community is distinctly warm, caring, and supportive, making it a very attractive place to work and learn.
- The Early Childhood Program and Lower School at Stuart have an excellent reputation in a very competitive market.
- Stuart benefits from a strong and very supportive leadership team. There is a palpable sense of joy among its leaders, who work well together in a collegial, high functioning manner.
- Stuart's campus and facilities are both beautiful and intentionally designed. The well-maintained school building is an architectural gem, having been intentionally designed by a renowned architect. It continues to serve its students and teachers extremely well, decades after its construction.



- The newly opened Cor Cordis at Stuart is an ambitious and forward-thinking project that reflects the school's deep commitment to fostering a lifetime of leadership success through academic excellence, student support, and health and wellness and ensures all students have support and resources needed to take the lead in their own leadership development and success.
- Stuart is deeply committed to supporting its diverse student body and its dedication to creating a culture of belonging is unequivocal.
- The strength of Stuart's academic program is evidenced by the achievements of its students and the outstanding college placement record that the school enjoys.



## Opportunities and Challenges

### *Manage, support, and inspire an outstanding faculty*

Stuart's Lower School and Early Childhood teachers are dedicated, talented, and respected. The next Early Childhood and Lower School Head will be responsible for continuing to nurture and develop its faculty. Although recent attrition is relatively low, the Division Head is responsible for partnering with the Head of School to recruit, onboard, and retain talented teachers when turnover occurs.

### *Build on the work being done this year to reimagine technology integration*

Reviewing and enhancing how technology is incorporated into the curriculum and pedagogy of the Lower School is a high priority this year, and for the next Head of Early Childhood and Lower School. With the guidance of a new technology integration expert, the Lower School expects significant changes that will support Stuart's overall STEM curriculum development.

### *Work closely with the faculty to ensure curriculum alignment*

Stuart's Lower School teachers appreciate their autonomy and their independence allows them to develop creative approaches to meet the specific needs of their students. At the same time, the Early Childhood and Lower School Head will need to continue to prioritize alignment of the literacy curriculum to make sure that the teaching of skills is consistent among teachers and grade levels.

### *Develop ways to allow the Lower School to benefit further from Cor Cordis*

The 2024 launch of Cor Cordis established an expanded hub for collaborative research and learning, and brought together a network of offices and services united in ensuring student wellness, including spirituality and campus ministry, DEIB, health services and counseling. How the Lower School might take advantage of this new resource will be a priority for the next Head of Early Childhood and Lower School.

### *Support the development of distinct programs that differentiate Stuart from its competitors*

In order to reinforce the value proposition of a Stuart education, the next Early Childhood and Lower School Head will need to continue to lead the enhancement of the program to attract and retain families.



### ***Partner with the Admission office to drive enrollment growth***

Given the competitive independent and public school market in the Princeton area, it will be important for the Early Childhood and Lower School Head to work closely with the Admission office by attending events, serving as an ambassador for the school, and thinking strategically about potential areas for enrollment growth.

### ***Continue to develop the after school program***

The K-8 after school program comes under the responsibility of the Early Childhood and Lower School Head's responsibility, who will have the opportunity to further develop and manage a robust program that aligns with the Cor Cordis philosophy and supports the needs of working families.

### ***Support the Early Childhood Program and Lower School as an important part of the overall Stuart experience***

Given its size relative to the overall school, the Early Childhood Program and Lower School at Stuart sometimes perceives itself as receiving less attention than the Middle and Upper Schools. The next Early Childhood and Lower School Head will have the opportunity to support the important work of the division both internally and externally to make sure that it is appropriately valued and celebrated.

### ***Develop the reintroduction of the 2-year old program as a distinct feature of the Early Childhood experience***

Next year Stuart will relaunch a program to welcome children as young as 2-years-old to the Early Childhood Program. Ensuring that the 2-year-old program gets off to a good start, is fully enrolled, and becomes an asset for growing enrollment in the Early Childhood Program and Lower School will be important priorities for the next Early Childhood and Lower School Head.

## **Skills and Attributes of the Next Head of Early Childhood and Lower School**

- Stuart Country Day School seeks an Early Childhood and Lower School Head who enthusiastically embraces and champions the School's values of leadership, service, and faith. The successful candidate will bring a professional approach distinguished by enthusiasm, compassion, and grace. With experience in an independent school setting, ideal leaders will reflect:
- A commitment to the mission of Stuart and a community that deeply values an abiding belief in each student's desire and ability to learn
- A proven track record of supporting faculty excellence and innovation
- An urgent desire to empower young girls through an all-girls education
- A demonstrated dedication to researching and applying innovative educational practices to improve student learning outcomes
- A genuine love of, and experience with, the unique academic, developmental, and emotional needs of Early Childhood and Lower School students
- A strong commitment to building an inclusive community of teachers, students, and parents where everyone is learning and growing and all cultures are celebrated
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills and a warm, approachable demeanor
- The ability to articulate the distinct mission and value proposition of a Stuart education to the wider community
- The ability to build relationships quickly in the Stuart community



## SUMMARY OF THE SEARCH PROCESS

Candidates interested in this position are asked to submit the following materials by **as soon as possible**:

- EC Summary Sheet and Disclosure Statement (contact George Sanderson for these documents)
- Letter of Interest addressed to the Search Committee
- Current Résumé
- Statement of Educational Leadership Philosophy
- A list of five or more references with contact information (name, relationship to candidate, phone and email addresses)

### Application materials are to be sent electronically via email to:

George Sanderson, Partner, Educators Collaborative  
Email: [gsanderson@educatorscollaborative.com](mailto:gsanderson@educatorscollaborative.com)

*An Equal Opportunity Employer, Stuart seeks candidates who will add to the diversity of our school community and candidates who demonstrate skills in cross-cultural teaching and leadership practices, and a dedication to working in a diverse community. The school seeks candidates who:*

- *Communicate effectively with diverse populations*
- *Create an inclusive classroom/work environment*
- *Use multicultural teaching/leadership methods, materials and resources that reflect multiple perspectives*
- *Engage in professional development opportunities to further develop inclusive teaching and leadership practices*

