



SAND HILL SCHOOL



Palo Alto, California
Head of School
November 2016

www.chconline.org

www.sandhillschool.org



Sand Hill School is an independent school for Grade 1-8 students and is part of a larger organization—CHC (Children’s Health Council).

Sand Hill School Mission

Sand Hill School’s mission is to provide a joyful and personalized learning environment for bright students with dyslexia and other learning differences. We re-instill confidence and love of learning by helping children and teens acquire the academic and social emotional skills they need for lifelong success.



The Position

The search committee is seeking an accomplished Head of School to lead Sand Hill School into the second phase of its growth. This is a unique opportunity to provide leadership for a small LD school that is at the forefront of educational research in learning and emotional intelligence. The next Head of School will have an opportunity to fine tune and creatively execute the mission to balance the competing demands of growing the school and advancing its excellence. He/she must be “outward” focused – a motivating and inspiring speaker and highly effective sales person. The new Head will find passionate administrators and teachers, a diverse and supportive parent community, and children who appreciate the difference Sand Hill School has made in their lives.

“Sand Hill School changed my life. I was at a school where no one really cared. When I transitioned to school at Sand Hill it was completely different. They had me set high goals and did not allow me to give up. They had me push on. It was really life changing because now I know I can succeed.”

School History

Thanks to the vision of CHC Executive Director Rosalie Whitlock and current Head of School Cindy Lopez, who recognized the strong community need for a school devoted to kids with dyslexia and other language-based learning differences, the idea of Sand Hill School was born.

With generous initial funding from philanthropists, long-time CHC friends and education advocates John and Betsy Kriewall, Sand Hill School opened its doors to seven bright young children in February 2011.

The school's successful outcomes were immediately acknowledged in the community and by 2013 the student body had grown to 47 children in grades K-5, evidence of both the growing need in the community and the success of Sand Hill School. Today the school serves 70 kids in grades 1-8. Sand Hill School teaches bright children who have learning differences plus ADHD and/or anxiety.

Sand Hill School is uniquely located just off the renowned Sand Hill Road in Palo Alto where visionary venture capitalists brokered major deals and invested in the entrepreneurial spirit that is part of the Silicon Valley. Some of the most successful people of our time have experienced learning disabilities and more. They learned that dyslexia, ADHD and other learning differences helped them to think 'outside the box' and see things that others might miss. Sand Hill students are the future visionaries, entrepreneurs and creative thinkers of the next generation who will shape the future of the Silicon Valley and beyond.

The School

When families come to Sand Hill, they begin to breathe easily again. Why? Because Sand Hill School easily is a caring, joyful place where kids who've been frustrated in other learning environments feel understood.

When they feel understood, they feel safe.

When they feel safe, they're more willing to take risks and rediscover their strengths... and once that happens, they never look back again.

As one of our students said,
"My teacher gets me!"



At Sand Hill, children connect with a specially-trained team of caring teachers and child development experts who know the most effective methods for teaching children with dyslexia and other learning differences—professionals who really want to understand each child. They find out about each child’s special interests and they use those interests to keep the children motivated. Then the team creates a personalized program that restores children’s love of learning, encourages curiosity and allows them to build academic and social skills.

The result? Children become more confident, more resilient and more self-aware.



The Sand Hill Approach

Because Sand Hill kids have unique learning styles, we use a specially-crafted approach to working with them so they become successful and resilient. Many connected elements go into what we do and all together, we call it the Sand Hill Approach. Elements include academics, social emotional learning, executive functioning and physical development. At Sand Hill School, kids get a leg up on learning with this approach.

- Reading Foundations® and Wilson Reading System®
- Math NumberWorlds (SRAS/McGraw Hill)
- Writing Step Up to Writing® (Sopris West®)
- Executive Functioning SMARTS (RESEARCHILD), Executive Functions Curriculum (School Specialty)
- Social Emotional Learning PATHS® (Channing-Bete), Second Step (Committee for Children), Brainology (MindsetWorks, Inc.)

Academic Learning

Academic learning includes reading/language arts, writing, math, science, history/social studies, visual and performing arts and PE. Social Emotional Learning and Executive Functioning are woven throughout the program. Our approach motivates students by capitalizing on their strengths and interests, and challenges them to think critically and creatively.

Specialty Classes

Students with dyslexia or other learning differences have many notable strengths. At Sand Hill School, we help students identify their strengths and then we encourage them to cultivate their strengths in our specialty classes, including visual and performing arts, science and PE. All Sand Hill School students participate weekly in Art, Performing Arts, Science and PE.

Additionally, our performing arts program includes opportunities for students to showcase their strengths in music, dance and drama with our winter and spring performances.

Technology

Technology is a tool and a support at Sand Hill. Each student has access to electronic tools—including software and apps—that become valuable strategies for learning. We work to identify the best tools for every student based on their learning needs. We teach students how to use the technology and then support students as they apply the tools effectively.

Social Emotional Learning

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is a powerful component of the Sand Hill Approach. We directly and explicitly teach our students SEL strategies such as self-awareness, self-management, relationship skills, and tools for responsible decision-making, and we help our students apply those strategies throughout the school day.

Executive Functioning

Executive Function refers to a set of processes in our brains that allow us to pay attention, limit impulsivity, and develop the appropriate reasoning, problem solving and planning skills that are important in life. We directly and explicitly teach our students Executive Functioning (EF) skills as tools for learning. These include: planning, organization, memory, time management and flexible thinking. We also teach things like how to organize a binder, how to set goals and how to reflect on learning.





Fast Facts

Enrollment: approximately 70 students

Grade levels: K-8

Student/Staff Ratio: 1:6

Founded: 2011

Hours:

Lower school: M, T, Th, F 8:20-2:45

Wednesday 8:20-12:20

Middle school: M, T, Th, F 8:20-3:15

Wednesday 8:20-12:20

Faculty: Specially-trained teachers and instructional coaches, psychologist, speech & language pathologist, occupational therapist, classroom support specialist

After school care: Club J at Sand Hill School—dismissal to 6pm

2016-17 tuition: \$37,000



Challenges and Opportunities

Among the issues the new Head will be expected to address are:

- Ensure that the promotion of Sand Hill School in the community is their number one focus and priority
- Build the school to an enrollment of over 80 students by 2018
- Recruit approximately 25 high-potential and good fit students for Sand Hill annually
- Assure that a strong parent group is in place to fundraise and support the school

Desired Qualities and Characteristics of the Next Head of School

- Represent the school to all of its constituents, including neighborhood, parents, students, alumni, business community, faculty and staff
- Communicate clearly and professionally in oral and written form to staff, faculty, colleagues, parents and the community
- Proven ability to employ strategic and design thinking
- Expert knowledge of LD learners' strengths and challenges
- Expert knowledge of appropriate programs and best practices for LD learners
- Desire and skills to be a strong spokesperson for students with learning differences and Sand Hill School in the greater community
- Expertise and experience in hiring properly qualified persons to serve as members of the faculty and administration
- Evidence of superior supervision of faculty and staff and overall school organization expertise
- Embody, manifest and advocate the mission of the school
- Articulate the vision for the school and its future
- Excellently manage competing demands of various constituencies
- Experience in successfully working with a Board of Directors
- Ability to collaborate effectively with the COO/CFO in the preparation of all financials, owning responsibility for financial well-being of the school
- Ability to successfully supervise the Heads of Lower and Middle School
- Possess Master's degree or equivalent plus five to ten years related experience as Head of School



To Apply

Applicants are encouraged to submit materials as soon as possible. Interested candidates should submit the following materials confidentially as *separate* PDF attachments in one email:

- Cover letter expressing interest in the Sand Hill School position
- Current resume
- Statement of educational philosophy
- List of five supervisory references with name, phone number, and email address of each (*references will be contacted only with the candidate's permission*)

Adrienne Foran
Director of Human Resources
Children's Health Council
650 Clark Way, Palo Alto, CA 94304
aforan@chconline.org
650.617.3834