

HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH

MORGAN PARK ACADEMY

Chicago, Illinois

morganparkacademy.org

Start Date: July 2025



**Carney
Sandoe**
& ASSOCIATES

CARNEYSANDOE.COM

Mission Statement

Morgan Park Academy engages the whole child, inspires the independent learner, and prepares the global leader of tomorrow to make a positive difference in the world.

Vision

Morgan Park Academy aspires to be a beacon of education for the Chicagoland area by developing a learning community of innovative teachers, inspiring students to become their best and brightest selves, and maintaining exceptional facilities and resources.

At a Glance



Established
1873



Enrollment
450



Total faculty
55



Student-faculty ratio
8:1



Students of color
82%



Financial aid awarded
\$3.6M



Faculty with advanced degrees
76%



Campus size
20 acres

International students: 10%

Zip codes represented: 45

Faculty of color: 35%

Financial aid budget: \$3.6M

Students receiving aid: 322 students (85%)

Annual operating budget: \$10.5M



Overview

Morgan Park Academy, a coed PK-12 independent day school serving 450 students, stands as a testament to academic excellence, community engagement, and student achievement. Situated in a historic neighborhood of Chicago's South Side, the academy has a rich history of nurturing students while adapting to the evolving educational landscape. MPA embarks on the next chapter of its journey following Mercedes Sheppard's retirement in June 2025 after a decade of leadership. The school seeks a dynamic and visionary leader to serve as the next Head and build upon the academy's foundation. This individual will have the opportunity to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the institution, leaving a legacy of excellence and community impact. Balancing the preservation of MPA's 151-year history with the imperative for innovation, continued academic rigor, and student well-being are among the opportunities for the next Head of School.

Opportunity

As a beacon of education on Chicago's South Side, MPA offers the chance to make a meaningful impact not only on the school's campus but also in the broader community. The Head of School at Morgan Park Academy will lead with enthusiasm, innovation, and a deep commitment to the school's mission. This role presents a unique chance to inspire a diverse community of learners, collaborate with dedicated faculty and staff, and cultivate an environment where every student can thrive. From enrollment management to fundraising, from student and teacher retention to maintaining and enhancing a historic campus, the Head of School will navigate a multifaceted landscape with determination and creativity.



Responsibilities

Enrollment Management: Develop and implement strategies to attract students from all areas of the diverse Chicagoland area.

Marketing and Fundraising: Lead efforts to promote the academy's value proposition, engage with donors and alumni, and secure resources to support MPA's mission.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention: Cultivate a supportive and inspiring work environment to attract and retain exceptional educators dedicated to student success.

Communication: Ensure transparent and effective communication with stakeholders, creating a culture of collaboration and trust.

Campus Revitalization: Spearhead initiatives to enhance and modernize MPA's historic campus, creating an optimal learning environment for current and future generations.

DEIB: Prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging initiatives to help people from disparate backgrounds and cultures navigate challenging conversations with humility and humanity in all aspects of school life.

Curriculum: Continue to provide an innovative, comprehensive, and forward-thinking curriculum that equips students with the knowledge, skills, and character necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Educational Focus: Demonstrated passion for education, well-versed in new educational modalities and emerging educational topics and trends.



Qualifications and Personal Attributes

Highly Strategic: Strategic thinker capable of developing and implementing long-term plans to achieve organizational goals.

Transparent and Empathetic: Honest, empathetic, and compassionate qualities, nurturing trust and understanding.

Fundraising and Marketing Acumen: Proven track record of successful fundraising and marketing initiatives within an educational or nonprofit context.

Approachable and Visible: Open-door policy and active engagement with all community members, fostering a sense of accessibility and inclusivity.

Servant Leader: Demonstrated commitment to serving the needs of students, faculty, staff, and the wider community.

Excellent Communicator and Collaborator: Exceptional verbal and written communication skills, coupled with a collaborative approach to leadership.

Decisive: Ability to make tough decisions in a timely manner, guided by a clear vision and values.

Highly Relational: Skilled in building and maintaining meaningful relationships.

Appreciation for Chicago's South Side: Understanding of and appreciation for the cultural and social dynamics of Chicago's historic South Side.

Fluency With and Understanding of Racial Dynamics and Inequality: Self-awareness of applicant's own biases and journey to become antiracist, and ability to navigate personnel, program and policy decisions, structures and systems from an equity lens.

High Energy: Enthusiastic and dynamic leadership style, inspiring others to embrace innovation and excellence.

Learn More

Click on the links below to learn more about Morgan Park Academy.

[School Website](#)

[Strategic Plan](#)

[School History](#)

[About Chicago, Illinois](#)

[MPA Difference](#)



To Apply

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence. Candidates will ultimately need to submit the following materials as separate PDF documents:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
- A current résumé;
- An educational leadership statement;
- A list of five professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate's permission) to:

Charlie Britton
Senior Consultant
charles.britton@carneysandoe.com

Kim Peeples
Senior Consultant
kim.peeples@carneysandoe.com

Jenny Fry
Senior Associate
jenny.fry@carneysandoe.com