



## Associate Head of School

PS1 Pluralistic School  
*Santa Monica, California*



### About PS1

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Founded in 1971, PS1 Pluralistic School is a progressive independent school in Santa Monica, CA, enrolling 220 students in grades K-6. The school's mission and philosophy are defined by pluralism – the idea that empathy and collaboration are key to building a more just and democratic society. PS1 helps students understand themselves as individuals and as members of larger communities. The school's curriculum, campus, and schedule have been designed to support students as they expand their understanding of themselves and their place in the world – learning how and why to make positive change, whether it's as a member of a friend group, a classroom, the school, a neighborhood, or even the world.

Please visit the school's website for more information about its philosophy, history, programs, campus, and people: <https://www.psone.org/>.

### About the Opportunity

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For a new position that will start no later than July 1, 2021, PS1 is hiring an Associate Head of School who will partner with Founding Head of School Joel Pelcyger to support the school's senior leadership team. Historically, PS1 has had a relatively lean administrative structure, so the addition of an Associate Head of School is a welcome expansion of the team's capacity. The Associate Head will enjoy a varied portfolio of responsibilities that touch on all aspects of school life, including academic programs,

school culture/community, finance, enrollment management, strategic planning, human resources, operations, communications, facilities, and more. This is an outstanding opportunity for an aspiring Head of School to work closely with an established leader to learn about all aspects of running a progressive, urban elementary school.

### Who Should Apply

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PS1 seeks an energetic, empathetic, and flexible educator who is well aligned with the core mission, vision, and values of the school – a leader who is passionate about developing the unique gifts of every child and helping them realize their potential as a valued citizen of their communities.

Because this is a new position, the school will need to rethink how some core responsibilities and functions are distributed, so the appointee will need to have superior political instincts, outstanding communication skills, and a collaborative leadership style. Ensuring a confident personal and cultural fit will also be essential as the Associate Head will need to quickly earn the trust and respect of the senior administrative team



and Mr. Pelcyger. Though it is in a competitive market and striving for continual improvement, PS1 is a healthy, well-established school with many thoughtful customs and cherished traditions. The school is seeking a sensitive, patient administrator who is comfortable listening and learning before recommending bold changes.

The ideal candidate will have most or all of the following qualities and qualifications:

- Experience as a classroom teacher in an elementary school program and a record of success as an independent school administrator.
- A high E.Q.; able to connect easily with constituents of diverse ages, backgrounds, and perspectives.
- A good eye for details and the common sense to know when they matter most.
- An eagerness to wear many hats and the energy and foresight to pitch in at any level without being asked.
- A strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, preferably with direct experience leading conversations and change in a school environment.
- A genuine love of working with and for elementary-aged children.
- A capacity for making difficult decisions when necessary.
- A strong work ethic and a positive, resilient mindset.
- A warm, approachable personality.

## Search Outline

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Jo Butler Consulting is partnering with PS1 and Mr. Pelcyger to lead the recruitment and selection process for this opportunity. Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact lead consultant Jo Butler ([jo@jobutler.com](mailto:jo@jobutler.com)) to express their interest and learn more about the application process and search calendar. Nominations are also welcome, and all inquiries are confidential.

Applicants will be expected to submit a cover letter, resume, statement of educational philosophy, and a list of three professional references. *(No references will be contacted without the permission of the applicant.)*

An application deadline has not been announced, but candidates should be prepared to submit their materials by early December. An appointment is expected in early 2021.



JO  
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*This announcement reflects our best understanding of the opportunity at this time and may be updated or changed as the search unfolds according to the wishes of the client or the needs of the consulting firm.*