



Head of School Search

Chatham Hall

800 Chatham Hall Circle
Chatham, VA 24531

chathamhall.org

Appointment for July 2019

“Chatham Hall prepares girls for college and for productive lives. The rigorous educational program encourages intellectual growth, creativity, and personal responsibility. The School fosters the intellect and character of each student and, through the Honor Code, students live in a community of trust. Grounded in its Episcopal heritage, the School welcomes students of all faiths and backgrounds.”

CHATHAM HALL

Chatham Hall is about the whole girl—her intellectual, moral, athletic, and spiritual development. No other girls’ school has the blend of strong academics, robust honor code, athletic competitiveness, and spiritual tradition in such a stately, small school. This ensures that each student’s voice is heard, and has the opportunity to develop, every day. For more than than one hundred and twenty years, Chatham Hall has been educating, developing, and empowering young women to take their places as leaders.

Located on a stunning campus in the small town of Chatham in Southern Virginia, Chatham Hall is a community of 160 young women, grades 9-12. Ninety percent of the students live on campus, as well as the majority of the faculty and administrators.

As a girls boarding school, Chatham Hall is devoted to cultivating a community of engagement, authenticity, and intentionality, that gives girls the academic, social, and emotional tools to become their best selves. Around campus the girls’ commitment to each other and “ideas” is immediately apparent. Faculty members are strongly invested in the girls, the School, and to their colleagues, which gives the School a true sense of community.

Since its founding in 1894 by the Rev. C. Orlando Pruden, Chatham Hall has been guided by its Episcopal heritage. That spiritual presence continues today in an inclusive, tolerant, and supportive ethos that touches the classroom, the dormitories, and the campus. Girls of all faiths feel welcome and comfortable, and the School and its chaplains ensure that each girl is supported in her spiritual journey and development.

School traditions and a strong sense of honor and integrity are expressed and upheld through the Honor Code and the Purple and Golden Rule, named after the school colors. These shared values allow for a community foundation built on trust, honor, and integrity.



THE POSITION

Chatham Hall seeks a dynamic, forward-thinking Head of School to begin in July of 2019. The ideal candidate will be committed to girls' education and to building on Chatham Hall's recent successes in educational programs, facilities, enrollment, and development.

The Head of School at Chatham Hall is officially known as the "Rector," a tradition drawn from the School's Episcopal heritage. The Rector is the chief administrative officer of the School and reports directly to the Board of Trustees. Overseeing the Administrative Leadership Team, a talented, committed group of ten, the Rector is responsible for ensuring that Chatham Hall achieves the goals of the Strategic Plan. She/he must be a visible presence on campus in order to establish connections with the girls and the faculty/staff. The Rector also connects the School with parents, the local town community, and alumnae.

Chatham Hall seeks a visionary leader who maintains the highest standards of personal and professional ethics while appreciating the long history and vibrant spirit which make the School unique. The new Rector will build on the momentum in enrollment, annual fund, endowment, and school programming. The ideal candidate will be warm, energetic, and skilled at connecting with all of the School's constituents, both internal and external. Candidates should understand the fiscal responsibilities of overseeing a boarding school of Chatham's size and complexity.

Chatham Hall will be in the fourth year of a five-year Strategic Plan in 2019-2020 and the next Rector will have the opportunity to play a leadership role in future campaigns.

CHATHAM HALL

By the Numbers

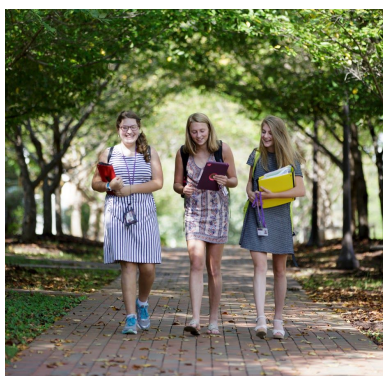




THE CAMPUS



The School is located on a picturesque 360-acre campus in the Piedmont Region of Southern Virginia. Chatham is a quaint, warm small town within a two-hour drive of the North Carolina cities of Greensboro, Raleigh-Durham, and Chapel Hill. In Virginia, Lynchburg, Roanoke, and Charlottesville are within a two-hour drive from campus.



The school campus is an aesthetic combination of historic buildings, green spaces and modern facilities. Visitors enter Pruden Hall and are immediately in “The Well,” a sweeping open staircase and entryway where the entire school community regularly gathers for assembly and announcements. The buildings of Pruden and Dabney, which house dorm rooms as well as classrooms, are connected by “The Arcade.” Every Wednesday morning students gather in The Arcade to enjoy another of Chatham Hall’s popular and long-standing traditions, “Cookie Break.”



Many classrooms are furnished with Harkness tables, which promote the commitment to collaboration, where every girl has a front-row seat, is expected to participate and also lead classroom discussion regularly. The Lee Learning Commons was recently transformed from a traditional library to a state-of-the-art learning environment. Movable furniture, various types of technology, and surfaces where girls can visually share ideas and concepts help to enhance learning experiences.



St. Mary's Chapel, a stunning Renaissance-style building with beautiful stained glass windows and a magnificent pipe organ, is the setting for most of the Spiritual Life programs. Alumnae frequently return to campus to be married in this Chapel.



The Shaw Science and Technology building is 16,000 square feet and includes four fully-wired laboratory/classroom areas, a high-tech lecture hall, a greenhouse, and the home for Chatham Hall's award-winning robotics team. Technology is integrated through the campus in student-owned laptops, required iPads, and computer labs.

Dormitory rooms are spacious and comfortable, and dorm parents, known as dorm advisors, are advocates for the students and serve as liaisons for the parents. Students are welcome in faculty apartments and homes and often visit for snacks or to cook meals together with their teachers. Yardley is a warm, welcoming, wood-paneled room with round wooden tables and chairs where students and faculty mingle during and between meals. Coffee, beverages, and snacks are available throughout the day and draw the community together.

Chatham is a true Southern town that has been called the "prettiest little town in Southside Virginia." Chatham is historic, welcoming, and attractive.

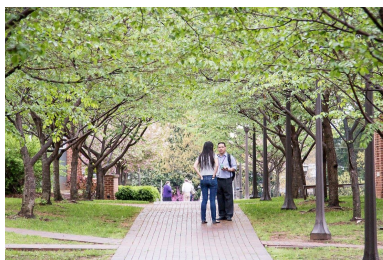
Faculty homes dot the campus, and approximately eighty-five percent of faculty live on campus.

The town of Chatham is literally right outside the campus gates, and girls are easily able to walk into town to restaurants and shops. In recent years, Chatham Hall has strengthened ties with the community, which recognizes the School as an asset and partner.

THE FACULTY AND ACADEMIC PROGRAM



The faculty is a refreshing blend of experienced and young teachers. A student:teacher ratio of 5:1 provides individual attention and a variety of role models and mentors to complement the diversity of the student body. Teachers are known for their approachability and access, due in part to the majority living on campus. It is not unusual to see students and faculty in conversation in the dining hall, dorm apartments, or out on the campus.



The academic program includes a rich and deep array of courses from introductory to Advanced Placement. Schedules are individualized to meet each girl's strengths and interests. Girls are empowered to direct their own learning in a collaborative environment and have input into course in both academic and fine arts offerings.

In 2018, students took AP tests in 20 different subjects with an eighty-nine percent pass rate. The college admission list is broad



“Empowering girls to better the world is at the foundation of everything we do at Chatham Hall, and is exemplified by our dynamic Global Programs.”



and reflects a focus on the individual student and her best fit, consistent with the overall culture of the School.

Chatham Hall provides innovative programs such as the Polly Wheeler Guth ‘44 Leaders in Residence program, where national and world leaders interact with the girls on campus, over meals, and in small groups. The program provides an exceptional opportunity for students to learn from women who shape the world – culturally, socially, artistically, and politically. Past guests have included Benazir Bhutto, Nancy Brinker, Jane Goodall, Zainab Salbi, Gloria Steinem, and Venus Williams.

Independent study programs like the iQuest and Discovery Challenge encourage students to find their passions, solicit support from the School, and pursue that passion through off-campus research. Each iQuest is different as the program is designed by each individual participating in the programming, and it embodies the notion of learning by doing. Students have travelled locally as well as internationally to pursue what motivates them outside of the traditional classroom setting.

Unique to boarding schools in Virginia, Discovery Challenge is an independent study program. It offers students the opportunity to pursue a topic of particular interest in depth under the guidance and direction of a faculty mentor of their choosing.

International Study and Travel also play a significant role for the students as they are offered the ability to participate in French or Spanish Immersion programs, service learning programs in India and South Africa, and other independent international study programs.

ATHLETICS & RIDING

Athletics and physical wellness are an essential part of daily life at Chatham Hall. Students are encouraged to participate in a sport or after-school activity regardless of their past experiences. Chatham’s indoor and outdoor athletic facilities support an extensive sports and recreation program. Ten sports, several with varsity as well as junior varsity teams, are offered.

Riding is a significant activity at Chatham Hall, and the Mars Arena, often referred to as the centerpiece of the school’s equestrian program, allows for all-season riding programs. In addition to the arena, the Hunter Trial Fields and extensive trails on campus add to an already impressive riding program. The School owns approximately 40 horses that girls can lease, or girls may bring their own horses.

THE ADMINISTRATION



The Administrative Leadership Team is comprised of both long-serving and new members, thereby ensuring a balance of innovation and tradition. Many members of the Team have worked at other boarding schools and understand the culture and expectations of successful boarding institutions. The Team is marked by a strong commitment to the mission and success of the School, and each member speaks glowingly of the girls and the Chatham Hall Community. They are dedicated, individually and corporately, to the success of the new Rector and the School.

“The Purple and Golden Rule is founded upon the expectation of mutual respect, consideration, and thoughtfulness.

The rule holds all members of the Chatham Hall community accountable for their actions and seeks to create a principled and caring sisterhood.”

EPISCOPAL IDENTITY

From its founding, Chatham Hall has been shaped by its connection with the Episcopal church. As is characteristic of Episcopal schools, Chatham Hall is inclusive, tolerant, and committed to service. Students of all faith traditions attend Chatham Hall and are comfortable there as they come to understand their own spiritual journeys. Two schoolwide chapels are held each week, and an optional-attendance Eucharist is held each Sunday. Two chaplains lead the spiritual life of the school. Students cite the Chapel Talk, a tradition in which each senior designs her own service and speaks to the entire student body and faculty, as one of the most significant moments in their Chatham Hall experience. In the School’s own words, “Rather than emphasizing religious differences, we focus on what we have in common – our human spirituality – and encourage girls to participate in ways that are most meaningful to them.”

THE PURPLE AND GOLDEN RULE

At the center of every Chatham Hall student’s experience lies a sense of honor, trust, integrity, and a spirit of mutual respect and thoughtfulness. These character traits are displayed in Chatham Hall students through the “Purple and Golden Rule.” This rule, like the Honor Code, holds every member of the Chatham Hall community accountable for their actions and helps to maintain the warm, inclusive nature of the School.



To Apply

Interested candidates should provide a resume, a cover letter highlighting their interest in, and fit for, the position, a statement of educational philosophy, and a list of five references with complete contact information in a single PDF by December 1, 2018.



The Education Group

Consultants

Dennis Campbell
dennis@educationgroup.com
 540-672-8008

Dave Davies
dave@educationgroup.com
 229-669-3555

Katherine Stuart
katherine@educationgroup.com
 434-989-7054

Strengths

 STUDENTS Warm, genuine, and high-achieving	 COMMUNITY Close, supportive, and fiercely loyal to the School	 ENROLLMENT Enrollment and the Annual Fund are at a historic high
 ENDOWMENT \$57 million endowment is at a historic high	 CAMPUS Attractive, safe and effectively supports the program	 FACULTY Academically talented and committed to the girls' education
 ADMINISTRATION Experienced and devoted to the School	 BOARD Engaged, talented and committed to the success of the new Rector	 EPISCOPAL IDENTITY The inclusive identity and honor code supports the overall culture

Challenges

 BOARDING Constant recruitment is required to maintain and/or increase enrollment, especially full-pay boarding students	 RELATIONSHIPS The new Rector must work to build and maintain relationships with Chatham's many constituents	 HOUSING Boarding schools require additional maintenance and renovation for faculty housing
 LOCATION The location, while attractive, is rural and can be an additional challenge for recruiting faculty	 TRANSITIONS The new Head of School must lead the faculty in promoting a more progressive program while retaining the school's traditions	 REVENUE Explore new revenue opportunities to optimize sustainability, growth and connection to Chatham

THE SPIRIT OF CHATHAM HALL

At Chatham Hall, the award-winning Robotics Team wears tutus, which captures the ethos of this unique place: serious academics partnered with a sense of playfulness. A supportive camaraderie underlies and enhances everything that occurs on campus, from shared meals to athletics, from artistic endeavors to in-class discussions. The spirit of Chatham Hall begins with the Rector, and an assumption that every faculty and staff member, as well as every student, brings unique and valuable gifts to the community. Collaboration, fellowship, and a desire to grow—emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually—are the hallmarks of Chatham Hall. If you believe you have the vision to lead Chatham Hall into its next era of excellence, we welcome you to apply. Spontaneous singing and dancing skills are a bonus.