

About the School

Community Preparatory School is a co-ed independent day school located in Providence, Rhode Island, serving students in grades 4-8. Community Preparatory School serves culturally and economically diverse students who are well qualified to benefit from a rigorous academic education in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Community Prep has a well-deserved reputation for developing students to become accomplished independent learners, confident leaders and caring citizens. Parents, students, and teachers engage in goal setting and planning that ensures academic and social success for each student. The school's mission, supported by a strong financial foundation, is to provide exceptional opportunity to students from all backgrounds who embrace a demanding curriculum. It's values are grounded in Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Beloved Community" and evidenced by the motto "Come Together. Go Far." Today, the school proudly recognizes 1,069 graduates and has a faculty of 14 dedicated educators.

By engaging with all facets of its students—intellectual curiosity, joyful learning, awareness of their own strengths, the rewards and satisfaction of determination, and a deep connection to the community and the larger world—the school prepares its students to thrive in the most competitive high schools and to become community leaders.



About the Position

The next leader of Community Preparatory School should:

- Be a proven inspirational and collaborative leader; culturally fluent and emotionally generous.
- Be passionate about the mission and culture of the school, respecting its unique strengths and building upon them.
- Be a confident cultivator of philanthropy and enthusiastic fundraiser. Set the tone; build relationships
- Embrace Community Prep's value proposition. Understand the demographics of the students served and the school's principles.
- Engage actively and enjoy the day-to-day life of the school; be visible and accessible; foster an open-door policy
- Possess the capability to formulate and execute a strategic vision together with the board.

[Click here](#) to view the Information for Candidates Statement.

The expected salary range is \$170,000-\$210,000.

How to Apply

Candidates interested in the position should submit the following materials by Monday, March 2, 2026.

- Cover letter of interest addressed to the Search Committee
- Current resume / CV
- Statement of leadership philosophy
- References may be requested later (name, relationship to candidate, phone and email address)

Information for Candidates

Welcome to Community Preparatory School Providence, Rhode Island

Come Together. Go Far.

TO BEGIN

Imagine arriving at middle school each day to the happy boisterous enthusiasm of jostling students gathering in the community room for “Day Break”. Then in unison they recite their school pledge:

"This day has been given to me fresh and clear. I can use it or throw it away. I promise I shall use this day to the fullest, realizing it can never come back again. I realize this is my life to use or to throw away." (words by educator Marva Collins)

Following a few announcements and recognitions, students head off to their 20-minute classroom meetings to build community, develop social skills, and immerse themselves in learning with their talented teachers. Their eagerness is palpable and is evident throughout the day across academic classes, arts, and athletics. Clearly, we are an exciting, high-energy school!



HISTORY

Overview

Over 40 years ago, Dan Corley sat in his living room with a group of parents and community leaders to imagine and create Community Preparatory School, an innovative independent middle school, grounded on a simple but powerful belief: bright, deserving students from all backgrounds, regardless of their zip code, should have access to a high-quality education that prepares them for success in high school, college, and beyond. The name "Community" was chosen to emphasize parent, volunteer, and neighborhood participation among the demographics to be served. It was coupled with "Preparatory" to stress academic excellence and commitment. This was the vision of Dan and co-founder Bob Hahn, and it continues to guide everything we do. Community Prep students are admitted to the school based on merit and then provided opportunity via an outstanding foundation supported by our superlative faculty.



Beginning in the fall of 1984 with 25 students and three teachers in rented classrooms at the John Hope Settlement House on the west side of Providence, R.I., Community Prep has grown and progressed on a constant upward trajectory to become the leading independent middle school in Rhode Island serving a truly diverse student body. Over the years, the school has proudly produced 1,069 graduates. Currently, the student body consists of 137 students and a faculty of 14 dedicated educators. Its cherished

“Beloved Community” has been thoughtfully nurtured while continually developing student success with academic rigor and exceptional opportunities.

From the start, the appeal of Community Prep’s mission has attracted generous donors who feel rewarded that their investments yield the desired results of highly educated graduates being admitted to the most competitive public and private high schools. The school makes a meaningful difference in the lives of students and families. Over 95% of Community Prep’s graduates go on to college-prep high school programs and some who go to vocational programs choose to attend college as well. This virtuous cycle: philanthropy - funding quality education for underserved students with results that inspire more philanthropy - has created a strong, stable funding base.



Mission

At Community Preparatory School, we empower our diverse student body to reach full academic and leadership potential while building a Beloved Community.

Community Prep serves a wide range of culturally and economically diverse students who are well qualified to benefit from a challenging curriculum in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Our faculty and staff support and guide our students to become confident, independent learners, and develop a strong sense of public service through service learning projects and stewardship. Each term, parents, students, and teachers engage and agree on goal setting and planning to ensure academic and social success for every student. By engaging with all facets of our students - intellectual curiosity, joyful learning, awareness of their own strengths, the rewards and satisfaction of determination, and a deep connection to our community and the larger world - they are prepared to thrive in the most competitive high schools and to become community leaders.

Welcoming

More than inclusion, Community Preparatory School truly welcomes any social or economic class, ethnicity, culture, nationality, race and other characteristics that contribute to each individual's identity.

The school nurtures and sustains an environment in which all - students, alumni, families, faculty, staff, trustees, volunteers, donors and visitors - are recognized and valued both as members of the school community and as irreplaceable individuals. The principle that guides us is Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of the "Beloved Community": widely different groups of people bound together with love and respect, working toward a just society and understanding that our differences are our strengths. In pursuit of this goal, we are committed to moving from mere tolerance to actively working against prejudice and fostering acceptance within our community and in the world. We help students become tomorrow's leaders by providing a solid ethical and educational foundation. Achieving our goal requires dedication and perseverance, and we are clear in ensuring that everyone in our community commits themselves to this goal.

PROGRAM

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.

While Community Prep's curriculum is focused primarily on preparing students to meet the competitive demands of college-preparatory high school, students also work toward success in every aspect of life. Faculty and staff are trained in the tenets of the Responsive Classroom™ curriculum which is the basis of the school's commitment to

build social and emotional skills as well. Community Prep was founded on the belief that education is a partnership in which parental/guardian involvement is essential. At the outset of each trimester marking period, students, parents, and teachers meet to set personal goals with the student. All members of the student-parent-teacher team must agree to contribute toward the achievement of these goals and to honor the core values of R.E.S.P.E.C.T. [**R**esponsible **R**ole Model, **E**nthusiasm, **S**upport, **P**reparedness, **E**ffort, **C**hallenge & **C**ommunication, **T**rustworthiness & **T**ruthfulness]. Progress is evaluated regularly, and goals may be adjusted at subsequent meetings. In addition, the school's social worker is well equipped to teach students in social and emotional domains, including strong instruction in mental health and interpersonal issues.

Curriculum



The school is divided into four learning families (4th/5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades). Each learning family has a faculty team responsible for teaching the four core disciplines: Math, English Language Arts (ELA), Science and History & Social Studies. In addition, all students study Spanish, Creative Arts, Health and participate in Physical Education classes and Social Emotional Learning. The curriculum is evaluated and enhanced

regularly, and faculty professional development is incorporated to ensure alignment with our objectives, meet Common Core standards and to promote best practices. In the classroom, students use Chromebooks and *Google for Education*, which are fully integrated into the curriculum.

Math instruction at Community Prep is robust. The “Big Ideas” curriculum is used across all grades to ensure coherent advancement. Qualified students are offered an advanced math track. Every class engages in a weekly session of “calculator club”, a high energy activity which pits students’ mental computations against the speed of a calculator’s answer. The school also participates in the national “MathCounts” competition.



ELA is grounded in the “Wit & Wisdom” curriculum and promoting cultural relevance. Teachers provide students tools to write confidently in any genre and craft highly effective arguments. Students also learn to self-assess their writing. Reading comprehension is emphasized as well. Community Prep is an inaugural school in the “Read to Succeed” program which awards scholarship money towards college to every student who completes their summer reading requirement.

Science is taught via a spiraled approach to curriculum focused on vertical coherence to align content, skills, and scientific practices across grade levels. A common base is provided via teaching shared foundational skills such as the scientific method, data collection and lab safety to underpin education in areas of Earth, Life and Physical Sciences.



History & Social Studies explore past and current civic matters through diverse perspectives, recognizing that they are shaped by many voices and experiences. Our goal is to develop critical thinking skills to reach a deeper understanding of history and how it shapes our world today.



The 4th / 5th grade curriculum alternates each year. In one year, students learn about the geography and regions of the United States, building a foundation for understanding how people, places, and environments shape our country. The other year, the focus is on Native Americans and the history of Rhode Island (RI), which helps students gain a deeper understanding of the state's cultural heritage and the communities that helped shape it.

In 6th grade, students explore ancient civilizations to discover the roots of modern ideas, technologies, and cultures. In 7th and 8th grades, students are committed to exploring the past by identifying change and continuity, understanding cause and effect, and analyzing complex relationships across time.

Spanish is taught in every grade with a goal that students may place into Spanish 2 or 3 in high school. The curriculum is structured to ensure that all students receive the level of instruction needed to succeed and progress in their language learning journey, with Spanish 1 provided as a second language to non-native speakers while heritage speakers are offered Spanish Seminar.



The goal of Creative Arts programming (music, dance, visual & studio arts and technology) is to advance students' understanding and appreciation of each of the creative arts. Students develop an ability to express themselves in artistic ways as individuals and working in groups.



Service Learning is also an important part of Community Prep's curriculum. Each grade chooses and commits to a project, many of which are conducted in the immediate neighborhood - some are local, school-based activities while others reach into the surrounding community. Students gain perspective from experiences such as: being "guest readers" at a local Head Start program, coaching younger students, conducting food drives, participating in the Broad Street Initiative's community clean-up and supporting a school in Maasai Mara, Kenya.

Physical Education and (physical) Health instruction include exercise, personal well-being, injury prevention, nutrition, disease control and a sexuality & family life component.

Student Council and Club Activities take place during the school day so that all students have an opportunity to participate by being present. Community Prep has a student council with representation from each grade and homeroom. Many club activities are also offered, designed by teachers and volunteers who wish to share their personal interests and expertise. Examples of Club options include: a longstanding Investment Club with an impressive performance record; Who Wants To Be a Lawyer?; Strength Training; Vets (pets); a new Gardening Club.



AFTER SCHOOL

Athletics

Community Prep's athletics program is all about teamwork, learning skills, and having fun. Students work hard and give their all, and they have the victories to show for it! Community Prep students in grades 6-8 are encouraged to join any of the athletic programs.

Athletics offered include:

- Fall – Soccer, Cross Country, Volleyball
- Winter – Girls & Boys Basketball
- Spring – Track & Field, Intramural Sports (Boys & Girls), Golf

Extended Day

Families with a need or preference to have their students remain at Community Prep until later in the day have that option, via the school's Extended Day. Teachers are also present after school to assist students who choose to partake in additional instruction.

OPERATIONS

To ensure long-term growth and sustainability, Community Prep closely manages its business, organization and human resources in addition to fulfilling its primary mission of excellence in education. The school's value proposition centers around the factors of "input" = admission of well-qualified students; "value-add" = enhanced education, character and talent development produced by faculty & staff; and "product/ output" = accomplished students evidenced by admission to selective secondary schools.

Income to fund the school's operations with a balanced budget is comprised of:

- o donations/fundraisers/grants: 40%
- o endowment draw: 36%
- o tuition/programs: 18%
- o other: 6%

It is the continual success of this cycle – generosity / opportunity / results - that consistently attracts the necessary funding from current/ annual donations together with a prudent draw (4% max) from our accumulated healthy endowment, which was built from prior and legacy donations to fund the school.

Community Prep at a Glance

At Community Prep, there is far more to teaching than reading, writing and arithmetic. Through inspired tutelage, our dedicated faculty instills students' character, shared values, curiosity, and a quest for knowledge that lasts a lifetime. Community Prep students are developed into poised, confident graduates with strong leadership capabilities and maturity beyond their years.





Community
Preparatory
School

ENROLLMENT OVERVIEW



137
STUDENTS



19
AVERAGE
CLASS SIZE



63%
OF STUDENTS ARE
PROVIDENCE RESIDENTS



90%
OF STUDENTS
RECEIVE SUBSTANTIAL
FINANCIAL AID



INDEPENDENT
MIDDLE SCHOOL



FOUNDED IN 1984



GRADES 4-8



LOCATED IN
PROVIDENCE'S
SOUTH SIDE

MISSION

At Community Preparatory School, we empower our diverse student body to reach full academic and leadership potential while building a Beloved Community.

FINANCIAL AID

Every student accepted is welcome regardless of the family's ability to pay the full \$18,800 tuition.

All families are expected to make a reasonable contribution to their child's tuition.

FUNDING

82% of the school's operating budget is funded through donations and other sources; tuition and fees cover only 18%.

Traditional independent schools generate 80-90% of their budgets from tuition.

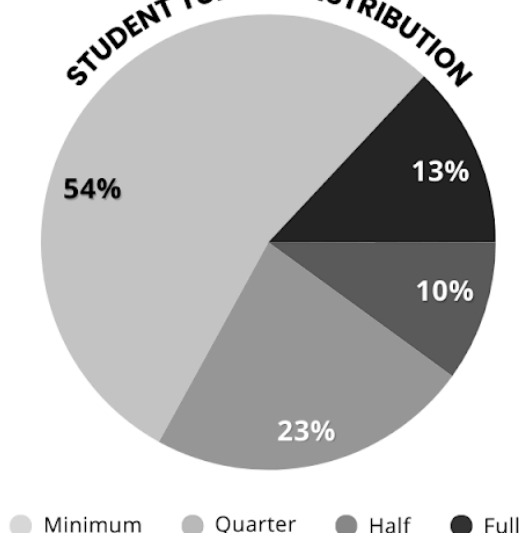
PLACEMENT

97% of Community Prep's 1,069 graduates have been accepted into college-preparatory high school programs, including highly competitive independent schools across New England.

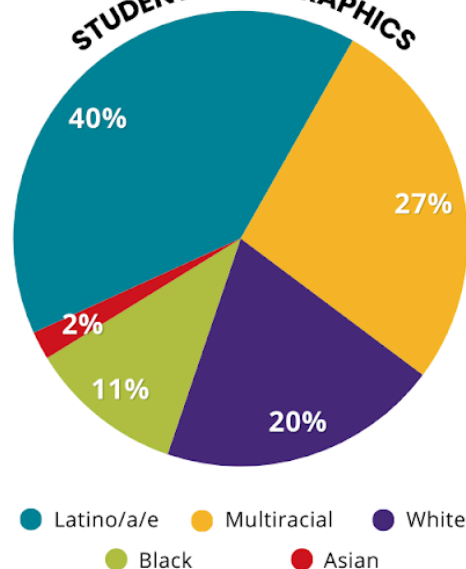
82% of our college-age alumni are attending or have graduated from college, which is double the average of most urban public schools.

Over **\$44M** in scholarship assistance has been awarded to our graduates.

STUDENT TUITION DISTRIBUTION



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



FUTURE LEADERSHIP PROFILE

Interview Base

The Board of Trustees of Community Preparatory School is casting a wide net to identify a new Head of School. Disclosure: A successful Head of School search was conducted recently. Due to a severe emergent health issue, that Head unfortunately and understandably decided to separate with the school to focus on their health after one-year in the position. In launching this search, the Board has created a summary of Community Prep's strengths, the opportunities it faces in the next three to five years, and the characteristics sought in the next Head of School.



Strengths of Community Preparatory School

Community Preparatory School enjoys an outstanding reputation for its academic excellence and its long-standing record of serving an economically varied population. Education is student-centered; class sizes are small. Students are curious and intellectually ambitious. A culture of high expectations in an accepting environment encourages them to explore knowledge and opportunity.

- Community Prep is fiscally strong. Fundraising and prudent stewardship have yielded a sizable endowment to support generous financial aid.
- Community Prep has retained a skillful, dedicated and loyal faculty.
- A challenging curriculum prepares students very well for future success.
- Community Prep graduates go on to many of the best high schools and further education, often earning significant scholarships.
- The spirit of community is infused by mutual respect and kindness.
- Teacher-student bonds are strong.
- Some alumni have returned to the school to teach; and many have enrolled their own children.
- A new arts & athletic facility complements a well-maintained physical plant.
- Ample space exists for class and/or programmatic expansion.
- The school enjoys a harmonious relationship with its neighbors.
- The Board champions the school's mission, leads various committees and is actively and appropriately engaged.



Challenges & Opportunities for the School and the New Head

Community Prep was founded with sparse resources and has grown over 42 years as a distinguished academic, fiscally sound, joyful school. Areas of consideration are:

- Fundraising and Development: Attract new sources of revenue and support for strategic priorities—among them an ability to serve and graduate more students, offer additional financial aid and facilities configuration and refurbishment.
- Forward Thinking: Determine funding strategies to expand the school. A possibility which appeals to the board is the idea of expanding to the lower grades. Another is expanding the number of homerooms in 6, 7, and 8th grade to graduate more students.
- Raise the Profile: Boost applicant recruitment. Promote the value of a Community Prep education in the face of increased competition from local independent and charter schools which have increased their efforts to enroll diverse students. Develop effective ways to “spread the word” to our target families.
- Community Building: Promote clear communication and involvement across the school, families, trustees/ volunteers and community at large. Spark excitement.
- Human Resources: Retain and replenish a dedicated and long-tenured faculty & staff. Ensure effectiveness of policies and procedures and ensure that they are thoroughly documented, implemented and readily accessible.
- Programming: Maintain and enhance outstanding academic and extracurricular programs. Stay abreast of the evolving educational landscape, bringing best practices to Community Prep that are consistent with the school’s foundational underpinnings.
- Board Support: Consider appropriate size, skill set and composition of the board, committees and other groups, and implement steps to foster and enhance the school's success.

Characteristics of the Next Head of School

Community Preparatory School has had essentially one Head of School, Dan Corley, who is the Founder. Dan created and realized the vision of Community Prep as an academically rigorous embodiment of the “Beloved Community”. In fidelity to this

vision, the school has evolved as a “family” with much of the tolerance and forgiveness that close families often display. With the arrival of a new Head of School, Community Prep enters a new era. The Head of School will bring their own lived experience, methods and style. Joining a family as a newcomer is not always easy, but Community Prep is ready to welcome the right leader and eagerly engage in continuing the school's evolution.

The following are some characteristics we feel are most important in the next leader, at this time. The Head of Community Preparatory School should:

- Be a proven inspirational and collaborative leader; culturally fluent; emotionally generous. Model excellent oral, written, and organizational skills.
- Be passionate about the mission and culture of the school, respecting its unique strengths and building upon them. Understand and embrace the demographics of the students served and the school's principles. Maintain strong relationships with students' families.
- Be a confident cultivator of philanthropy and enthusiastic fundraiser. Prioritize an effective partnership with the chief development officer; attract the next generation of donors.
- Serve as the spokesperson for the school, articulating its mission, value and setting the tone. Build upon existing community engagement initiatives, developing new relationships, and strengthening existing ones.
- Engage actively and enjoy the day-to-day life of the school; be visible at “Day Break” and accessible to students, faculty and staff. Foster an open-door culture.
- Possess the capability to formulate a strategic vision for the school and invest the Board and key stakeholders in pursuing it to completion.
- Be mindful of the school as a business, ensuring that it is functioning on a solid platform, reflecting best practices and sound fiscal oversight (examples: technology platform / utilization, human resources...).
- Embrace the value-proposition of Community Prep:
 - Ensure admission of well-grounded students of merit, able to thrive with a rigorous curriculum.
 - Support the principal in delivering a top-quality education, considering what will best prepare students for high school and beyond.

- o Build relationships with selective high schools able to provide admission with meaningful scholarships to worthy graduates.
- o Focus on donor engagement, setting and meeting ambitious fundraising goals to finance this cycle of success.
- o Hire, manage and mentor administrative leadership of the school as appropriate and encourage professional development to meet objectives.
- o Create the conditions for the school's leadership to thrive.

Conclusion

The ideal Head of School will be a leader who is passionate about the mission of Community Prep and can ignite enthusiasm in funders. S/he is committed to being a presence in the lives of students. S/he celebrates academic excellence while continuing to strengthen the school's values, culture, and mission. The new Head will partner with the board to imagine Community Prep's future as it continues to serve our target community. S/he will collaborate with the staff to serve and support our students and families with care.

Community Preparatory School is where merit and opportunity meet to change lives.

SUMMARY OF THE SEARCH PROCESS

Candidates interested in this position are asked to submit the following materials no later than March 2, 2026. All inquiries will be held in confidence:

- Letter of Interest addressed to the Search Committee
- Current Resume
- Statement of Educational Leadership Philosophy
- *Note:* A list of five or more references may be requested in later rounds (name, relationship to candidate, phone and email addresses)

Application materials are to be sent electronically via email to:

Mary ("Polly") Wall - Board of Trustees, Chair

Email: pwall@communityprep.org

Community Preparatory School
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communityprep.org