

Jackson Hole Classical Academy

Head of School Opportunity Profile

Presented by: **BetterSchools** *LLC*
Equipping Independent Schools With Tools To Thrive

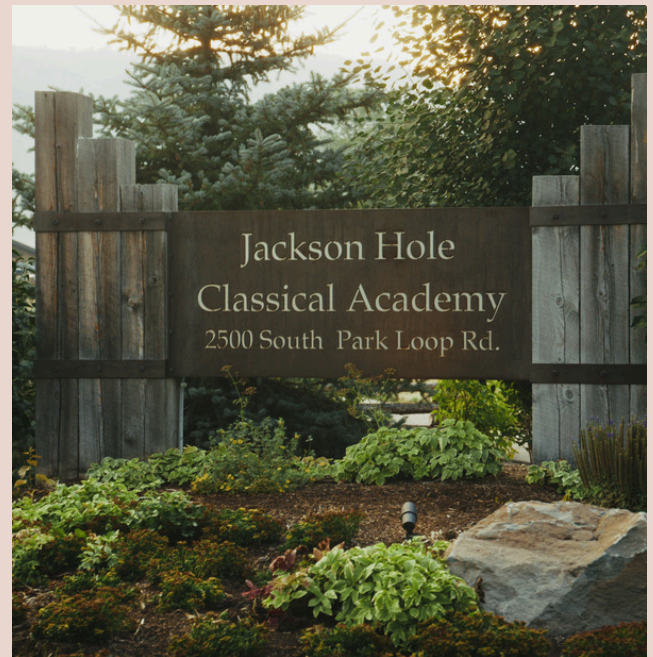




About Jackson Hole Classical Academy

MISSION

Our mission is to cultivate within our students the wisdom and virtue necessary for them to discover and fulfill their God-given potential and to contribute to a flourishing and free society.



VISION

As a school in the classical liberal arts tradition, the Academy believes that the pursuit of truth always begins with a sense of wonder. Students can love to learn what is true, good, and beautiful through a joyful discovery of the world around them and their own expanding potential.

Academy teachers understand that education is not merely an accumulation of facts or a memorization of what others have thought. Educating the heart and mind includes fostering habits of thinking, feeling, judging, choosing, and acting for a complete and virtuous life. Jackson Hole Classical Academy pursues this vision within the historic Christian tradition that calls each person to love God and man.

CORE VALUES

Distinctively Classical

– We teach students how to think about human achievements and failures, immersed in the integrated study of Western civilization (Hebrews, Greeks, Romans, and Christendom), combined with effective teaching methods in each subject area

Authentically Christian

– Our teachers openly model their personal faith in Christ and cultivate personal and civic virtue in students through an understanding of the Christian Gospel and Jesus's summary of the Hebrew Law: Love God and love others as yourself

A Transformative Community For All

– We welcome families of any (or no) faith commitment who want their children to grow in wisdom and virtue through rigorous and joyful learning

Lead What Most Only Imagine

Founded in 2011 by the Friess family, Jackson Hole Classical Academy was established to create a model classical Christian school in the Mountain West -- one devoted to forming hearts and minds and preparing students to live with responsibility, self-governance, and purpose.

Today, JHCA serves approximately 90 students and, as of 2025, is home to a new 78,000-square-foot classroom building designed to support a pre-K through 12th-grade school for generations to come.

Within its walls:

- Light-filled classrooms provide a comfortable learning space
- A carefully curated library invites students into a literary inheritance
- Science labs and maker spaces support hands-on inquiry and problem-solving
- An indoor greenhouse connects science and entrepreneurship in practice
- The chess room develops strategic thinking and competitive engagement
- An expansive music studio houses a school-wide strings program
- The chef-led kitchen and dining hall anchor daily rhythms of shared meals, along with elective culinary instruction

With surfaces emblazoned with quotes from Socrates to Corrie Ten Boom, this is not simply a building. It is a place designed to foster intellectual and spiritual growth.

The academic and practical arts facilities are complemented by a state-of-the-art athletic complex including a competition field house and fitness facility, a turf soccer and lacrosse field, a six-lane track, and five tennis courts.

With a strong endowment, no debt, and thoughtful solutions to local housing challenges, JHCA is positioned for long-term strength and stability.



A Moment of Renewal

As with any institution, JHCA has faced its share of challenges. The past four years have included leadership transitions, resulting in careful analysis by the board and bringing priorities into sharper focus. The staff are committed to the mission, and families who left during an unsettled season are returning.

Today, a committed board, a steady interim executive director, and an energized faculty are strengthening the school's foundation. Key systems are being established. Shared expectations are taking shape. A sense of joy is returning.

The next Head of School will step into a school that is moving forward and ready for consistent, mature leadership.



Leading a Community Toward Flourishing

The next Head of School will lead a faculty and staff deeply committed to classical Christian education. Many are accomplished scholars (68% of staff have advanced degrees); all share a common task: to form students with truth, goodness, and beauty.

This work goes beyond enrollment targets or daily operations. It is about shaping a school ordered toward JHCA's founding mission focused on human flourishing.

In a region where explicit faith is often uncommon, JHCA offers a clear and compelling presence. The Head of School will embody that presence with articulate authenticity.

The JHCA Way

As the lead up to the search, BetterSchools LLC consultants conducted listening sessions with parents, faculty and staff, executive leadership, and the JHCA board. The conversations helped to identify key aspects of each stakeholder group's sense of commitment to the school community and its future under new leadership.

Parents' Perspective

1. Pedagogical Guardian - Parents value the school's rich curriculum and back to basics approach.

- *Advocate for the Great Books:* Have a deep appreciation for classical literature and the Western tradition.
- *Prioritize Low-Tech Learning:* Be firm in the belief that textbooks vs. iPads is a superior model for learning and critical thinking.
- *Uphold Rigor:* Maintain high academic expectations, ensuring that the curriculum remains challenging yet accessible through individualized attention.



2. Moral & Spiritual Anchor - Many parents highlight the Christ-centered environment and aligned family values.

- *Model Christian Character:* Lead with a servant-leader mindset, embodying the values of grace and joy mentioned by parents.
- *Preserve Innocence:* Maintain a school culture that is not politicized, allowing children to focus on their core studies and development.

3. Cultural Architect - The feedback emphasizes a discipline-expected, not demanded culture.

- *Maintain Order and Respect:* Uphold a clear discipline structure where students are respectful toward adults.
- *Cultivate a Small-School Feel:* Leverage the student-teacher ratio to ensure that every child is valued where they are.

4. Strategic Story-Teller - Parents describe the school as a miracle and the best option in the area.

- *Articulate the Why:* Clearly communicate the value of classical education to both current families and the wider community.
- *Bridge Home and School:* Ensure consistent messaging between the school's core values and the parents' home environments.

The JHCA Way



Faculty/Staff's Perspective

For the faculty and staff, given rapid recent changes in key leadership positions, the right person is less defined by aggressive change than by a trustworthy presence, cultural clarity, relational depth, and sustainable health—someone who brings calm, coherence, and credibility over time.

- 1. Stability, Retention, and Longevity** - A primary indicator of success is simply staying power—of the leader and the community around them.
 - “The head of school is here; we are still here.”
 - Student and faculty retention has improved.
- 2. Trust, Relationships, and Community Integration** - Success is marked by deep relational trust and meaningful embeddedness in both the school and the wider community.
 - The faculty and staff feel connected to this person.
 - The HOS has put down roots and integrated into the community.
 - “My barber tells me that JHCA does cool things in the community!”
- 3. Cultural Alignment and Contextual Leadership** - The right leader helps align the school's identity with its mission and local context, while wisely discerning essentials.
 - The culture of the school is aligned with the way of life in the area.
 - “I know what I'm aiming at—my vision is the same as the school's vision.”
- 4. Organizational Health and Empowerment** - A healthy school runs smoothly without over-dependence on the head, with empowered faculty and leadership.
 - The HOS can step away and things run smoothly—faculty and staff are empowered through shared values.
 - The rate of change of systems has dropped dramatically.
- 5. Positive Culture and Emotional Climate** - A flourishing environment where people want to be.
 - Joy is evident in the school.
 - Teachers and staff feel appreciated and at home in their roles.
- 6. Reputation and External Confidence** - Success includes a strengthened reputation and growing confidence in the school's quality.
 - The school's reputation has improved in the Jackson Hole community.
 - “We're confident in our quality.”

Strategic Capabilities

1. Christ-centered, Winsome Leadership

The Head of School will provide spiritual leadership, modeling Christ-like attitudes and behavior in a school environment that welcomes Christian and non-Christian families.

2. Authentic Relationship Building

The Head of School will build and restore crucial relationships within the school community, especially with influential families and potential donors. This capability extends to the larger Jackson Hole community, especially with key influencers and political figures in Jackson, Wyoming proper.

3. Educational Vision Casting

The Head of School will build on the academic uniqueness and cultural quality of JHCA, with a flexible, contextual vision for classical Christian schooling in Jackson.

4. Sophisticated Fiscal Planning and Management

The Head of School will engage in ongoing financial planning, in the context of a fiscal system with various inputs and interests with high net-worth supporters.

5. Major Sustained Fundraising

The Head of School will be prepared to engage with high net-worth individuals to facilitate multi-year sustainable commitments in support of the school's mission and operations.



A Calling More than a Position

There are moments in the life of an institution when leadership must do more than manage—the leader must build, clarify, and renew.

Jackson Hole Classical Academy stands at such a moment.

JHCA seeks a long-term Head of School who understands that educational leadership relies on but transcends a system. Leadership is focused on forming souls, sustaining an exemplary faculty, and shaping a community.



The Invitation

If you are drawn to build, to restore, and to lead with purpose...

If you believe classical education can adapt itself to unconventional contexts...

If you are ready for a role that requires more than a short-term commitment...

We invite you to consider this calling.

To begin your application to be the next Jackson Hole Classical Academy's Head of School, please send the following:

- Your current resume or CV
- A one-page letter of interest
- A one-page description of your journey in the Christian faith

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Upon receipt, the search committee will respond with next steps in the candidacy process.