ABIDING SAVIOR ACADEMY
4100 S. Bahnson Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57103
https://abidingacademy.org/

POSITION: DEAN OF GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL

Abiding Savior Academy invites qualified candidates to apply for the position of Dean of the Grammar School and Preschool (grades PS-5th).

Abiding Savior Academy is a classical Christian school in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The mission of the Academy is to model and provide a classical Christian education that shapes the affections of students to love truth, goodness, and beauty so that they become confident disciples who impact their world for Jesus Christ. The core values of the Academy are Christian, classical, wisdom, virtue, family, and reasoning. At the Academy, we believe that a good education prepares students not just for college but for life. As G.K. Chesterton is credited with saying, "Education is not a subject, nor does it deal in subjects. It is instead a transfer of a way of life."

Located in southeastern South Dakota, Sioux Falls is one of the fastest-growing communities in the region and the nation. This growth is supported by a strong economy, including sectors like finance and healthcare. Sioux Falls is within a few hours' drive of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Kansas City, Des Moines, and Omaha. The Academy currently serves about 90 families who partner with us to educate about 225 students PS-12. Having grown organically over several years, and having graduated its first senior class in 2025, the Academy is on the cusp of significant growth and is in the process of defining its classical Christian identity.

The Dean of the Grammar School and Preschool will have the opportunity to guide a mission-driven school division into its next chapter. He/she will provide leadership and support to our Grammar School and Preschool faculty, and he/she will invest in the instruction and development of young lives towards an excellent classical Christian foundation, a lifelong love of learning, a love of truth and goodness and beauty, and a life of discipleship under Jesus Christ. He/she will be the educational leader for the Grammar School and Preschool, having oversight of day-to-day operations, including spiritual formation, staff professional development (in coordination with the Head of School), classroom management, curricular and extracurricular programs, scheduling, student achievement, student safety, and more. The Dean will also have the opportunity for leadership across the school in coordination with the Head of School.

The position starts in the summer of 2026 in preparation for the 2026-2027 school year. The Dean reports to the Head of School and serves on the Senior Leadership Team.

If you are committed to classical Christian education and are intrigued by the opportunity to impact the next generation of students for the Kingdom of God, please submit your resume and cover letter to Darren Walker, Head of School, at darren.walker@abidingacademy.org. An application is also available on our website at https://abidingacademy.org/job-opportunities/.

QUALIFICATIONS

In summary, the successful candidate will demonstrate four loves: a love for Christ, a love for students, a love for lifelong learning, and a love of classical Christian education. Specific qualifications include:

- Consistent Christian testimony and lifestyle worthy of the Gospel and of being imitated by faculty and students alike, and full agreement with the Academy's Statement of Faith, including being a faithful member of and actively involved in a local church where his/her faith in practice is consistent with the Academy's mission, vision, and Statement of Faith
- Deep understanding of and expertise with classical Christian education; classical Christian administration experience is preferred but not required
- Commitment to the mission, vision, and core values of the Academy
- Classroom teaching experience (including effective classroom management) and teaching mastery, preferably in a classical Christian school focused on the shaping of students' affections to love truth, goodness, and beauty
- Strong leadership skills, including the ability to motivate, coach, train, and evaluate faculty and staff
- Ability to relate to people with high emotional and social intelligence, patient listening, and a calm manner
- Ability to speak with eloquence and confidence
- Ability to resolve conflict peacefully with a goal of reconciliation
- Flexibility, organizational skills, effective decision-making abilities, and problem-solving skills
- Bachelor's degree (master's degree or higher preferred)

DESCRIPTION

In summary, the Dean will fulfill all other tasks delegated and/or assigned to him/her by the Head of School. The expectation is that overall leadership responsibilities for the Academy will be shared between the Head of School and the Dean, based on the particular strengths of the Dean and with a specific focus on the Grammar School and Preschool. Such determination will be made by the Head of School in consultation with the Dean. At its core, the position requires that the Dean serve as a minister of the Gospel, demonstrating an understanding of God's Word, practical discipleship, and a lifestyle of godliness. Specific elements of the position would likely include:

- Lead as a gentle, humble servant of Christ, who possesses boldness and courage in fulfilling the Academy's mission and vision while demonstrating its core values
- Nurture a warm and orderly culture where delight and diligence are informed by the Gospel
- Model and foster a classical Christian education environment that shapes the affections of students and staff to love truth, goodness, and beauty
- Ensure that the Academy remains consistent with its Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Core Values, and Statement of Faith

- Maintain conduct befitting a disciple of Christ, particularly in public conduct and conversation (including social media), recognizing that even when not formally carrying out Dean duties, the Dean's conduct, speech, and demeanor (in person or in media) will reflect on the Academy, shaping its perception among parents, prospective families, and the wider community
- Demonstrate effective classical Christian education by teaching at least one course, potentially in the Upper School
- Collaborate with the Head of School to recruit, hire, and retain teaching staff and other personnel, as needed
- Participate in the training, evaluation, and development of new and existing Academy faculty and staff, in coordination with the Head of School
- Lead regularly scheduled staff and team meetings for the Grammar School and/or Preschool faculty to promote open communication and professional development
- Observe classes to evaluate the instructional methods, strategies, and abilities of the staff while providing constructive feedback as needed to promote teacher growth and excellence
- Ensure the effective delivery of instruction, assessment, and student learning outcomes
- Communicate with parents to create a partnership that supports both the students and the mission of the Academy, including creating opportunities for parental involvement and education for the attainment of spiritual, academic, and fellowship goals of the Academy
- Implement and participate in a student discipline and discipleship process that is constructive, encourages Christ-like behavior, and restores relationships, while also maintaining appropriate documentation
- Assist in the admissions and/or re-enrollment process
- Ensure that Grammar/Preschool staff members follow all applicable Academy policies, procedures, administrative directives, and contractual agreements
- Promote an attractive, aesthetically-pleasing school environment that is conducive to learning, including ensuring all students and staff care for and respect the Academy's physical facilities and resources
- Participate in all necessary activities to acquire and maintain accreditation with the Association of Classical Christian Schools
- Take an active interest in the lives of those under his/her authority by getting to know them personally, discovering where they are spiritually and professionally, and helping them to take the next steps for growth in these areas
- Pray for the Academy community under his/her charge on a regular basis
- Make an effort to appreciate and understand the uniqueness of the Academy community, and collaborate with the Head of School to improve school culture
- Assist in the development and implementation of a curriculum that is aligned with classical Christian education standards and that is aligned between the Grammar, Logic, and Rhetoric Schools
- Address any staff, student, or parent issues in accordance with the principles set forth in Matthew 18 and other Academy conflict resolution policies

- Notify the Head of School immediately of any behavior that poses a risk to faculty, administrators, other staff, or students and/or that could damage the reputation of the Academy (including but not limited to any time when there is evidence of substance abuse, child abuse, child neglect, severe medical or social conditions, potential suicide, or students or staff appearing to be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances)
- Analyze student achievement data and other relevant information to inform instructional decisions and improve student academic outcomes
- Develop the Grammar School and Preschool master schedule, working in cooperation with the Dean of the Logic/Rhetoric School, faculty, and other staff
- Avoid crisis situations by anticipating problems and making timely, clearly-communicated, and effectively-implemented decisions
- Contribute to the development and execution of the Academy's strategic plan
- Safeguard confidentiality of privileged information
- Attend Academy-sponsored events as able
- Place administrative ministry ahead of other jobs or volunteer activities
- Meet regularly with the Head of School for accountability, communication, and planning
- Assume leadership responsibilities in the absence of the Head of School
- Fulfill other responsibilities as assigned by the Head of School