Hillside School

Farm Director

2018

hillsideschool.net
Hillside’s mission is to maximize the potential of every student in mind, body, and spirit. This will be achieved through our small class size, 7:1 student teacher ratio, and our academic support programs tailored to meet the needs of each boy. Our extracurricular programs will develop and challenge each student to perform at his highest level through practice, competition, and outstanding teacher support. Spiritually, the school’s focus on others, empathy, brotherhood, and leadership will develop the soul and spirit of each student.

Core Values
- Compassion
- Determination
- Honesty
- Respect
- Brotherhood

Fast Facts
- Students: 145
- Boarding/Day: 65%/35%
- 14 states, 12 countries represented
- Student/teacher ratio: 7:1

The Position
Hillside is seeking an experienced Farm Director to assume leadership of its current farm program. The Farm Director will be given the freedom to create, develop and implement their vision and make the farm a signature program. Hillside has recently earmarked, with board approval, significant financial resources for farm program and facility improvements. To accomplish this objective, Hillside will require a Farm Director who is a high-impact self-starter with an entrepreneurial spirit and results driven approach. The Farm Director will be responsible for the day-to-day operational management of the farm while concurrently considering, retooling, and implementing a bigger picture vision to ultimately create a true signature program. The Director will also teach fifth to ninth grade students on topics including sustainability, ecology, agronomy, and animal husbandry with a focus on organic and regenerative agriculture. Most essential to the role is a willingness and ability to strategically enhance both the farm’s program and physical plant and a desire to influence the greater landscape of the school.

Hillside School is a boarding and day school for boys in grades five through nine. It provides a structured and supportive environment to bring out the best in each boy. Located in Marlborough, Massachusetts, it is a tight-knit community 30 miles west of Boston. Hillside is unique in its ability to meet every boy at his learning threshold and maximize his potential. The academic program is intentionally designed for a spectrum of learning styles, and teachers share a commitment to explicitly teaching boys how to learn. The result is a student body that is curious, determined, respectful, and compassionate, composed of individuals who know how to learn and how to utilize their time in the classroom, who have established strong habits of learning, and who are ready to embrace the added responsibilities that accompany the transition to high school.
The Hillside Farm

The Hillside farm has always been central to the school’s campus and program. In Hillside’s earliest days, the farm supplied campus residents with food and taught boys – often from underprivileged, inner-city backgrounds – essential agricultural skills. As the school evolved, so did the farm and its purpose, but its presence and its value have remained.

The twenty-five acre farm property includes substantial vegetable and flower gardens, expansive pastures, a greenhouse and barn. Past and present farm initiatives include aquaponics, beekeeping, a successful community supported agriculture (CSA) program, and a “farm to dining room” experience. The Hillside farm is equipped to house a wide range of animals large and small – animals currently residing on the farm include cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys, alpacas, goats, and more.

Thanks to the school’s current farm program, Hillside students develop a keen awareness and appreciation of the importance of protecting our natural environment. Through activities central to farming—collecting eggs, milking goats, shearing alpacas, and maintaining a greenhouse—students experience the confidence-building benefits of working in teams to tackle problems and set goals for the common good of the farm and its animals. Witnessing how their efforts make a positive difference in the life of the farm provides a strong sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. At the same time, Hillside students gain an invaluable “big picture” understanding of how proper, ecologically sound care of the land benefits the world around them. The integration of the Hillside farm within each grade level’s core curriculum allows all students the opportunity to learn in the context of this unique campus resource.
School History
Hillside School was founded in 1901, when two sisters established a self-sustaining school for boys. Practicality and compassion drove the genesis, along with a commitment to providing a structured, supportive, and challenging academic environment. Hillside’s diverse offerings and character education have contributed to the development of superbly well-rounded young men for over a century. Hillside students, then and now, are encouraged to take risks with the knowledge that sometimes they will fail, but the support of their school community will never waver. Basic tenets such as determination, compassion, and tolerance guided Hillside students in 1901, just as they do today. The relevance of Hillside’s founding principles remains, and these values continue to shape the school community.

The School
Today, Hillside is a premier junior boarding school providing exceptional academic opportunities to a diverse population of young adolescent boys in grades five through nine in preparation for secondary school. The school is defined by its culture of inclusivity that fosters close relationships between students and teachers, made possible by a 7:1 student teacher ratio. Students are encouraged to push themselves academically while constantly focusing on the school’s core values of compassion, determination, honesty, respect, and fun. A successful Hillside graduate evolves from a student who strives for academic triumph and gives his all to his teammates into a man who becomes a valuable member of his community, a worthy colleague and friend, and—someday, perhaps—a dedicated husband and father. A Hillside boy knows that achievement gained at the expense of another is empty, while one born from collaboration is a reason to celebrate.

Core Values
Hillside’s unique academic and leadership program, Shades of Blue, builds character while holding students accountable to the core values of compassion, determination, honesty, respect, and brotherhood. The culture of the school community is its hallmark. Clear, consistent standards and expectations are key at Hillside. The Shades of Blue program rewards students’ exemplary performance while also identifying areas for improvement. The program encourages open communication with parents, so they remain aware of their sons’ academic and social progress, as well as areas of challenge. Advisor groups serve as “families” within the Hillside community. Advisors work side by side with small clusters of boys throughout the year, as they share in achievements and challenges. These mentors discuss areas for improvement and
praise accomplishments, sharing Shades of Blue evaluations with advisees every two weeks. Community support propels all students to reach the highest levels of Shade of Blue and, in doing so, to realize their full potential as students and as individuals. Hillside’s nurturing environment provides the structure and security that middle school boys need to learn, mature, and gain a lifelong foundation of compassion and self-esteem. Faculty experienced in meeting each boy at his own level of personal development offer guidance as each student navigates the uncertain world of early adolescence.

**Physical Campus**

Hillside’s picturesque, 150-acre campus offers a charming neighborhood of friends and learners. The last decade has been one of substantial physical growth for Hillside, with new construction, renovations, and additions impacting virtually every aspect of campus life. Defining structures, including the Academic & Health Center, two new dormitories, and the Chase Chapel, were recently completed to better serve Hillside’s growing population. These buildings are complemented by enhanced outdoor athletic space, improved faculty housing, and the expansive natural beauty of the campus.

**Marlborough, Massachusetts**

A historic New England town, Marlborough is conveniently located only 40 minutes west of Boston, with easy access to many of the region’s best-known attractions. Despite its quite pastoral campus, Hillside enjoys a convenient proximity to the state capital. Boston is one of the world’s premier cities, home to world-class cultural and educational resources. Harvard, Tufts, MIT, BC, BU, Berklee College of Music, Northeastern, New England Conservatory, and Wellesley College contribute to the area’s youthfulness, vitality, and pride. Rich in history and central to the birth of the nation, Boston also gave the country its first college, secondary school, public park, subway, and periodic newspaper. Leading cultural institutions that call Boston home include the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston Ballet, the Athenaeum, Boston Symphony and Pops, and Museum of Science. Boston is a legendary sports town, abounding in professional, collegiate, and youth teams of all varieties (and generating plenty of opinions). A river city with a busy harbor and the adjacent Massachusetts Bay, Boston is also ideally positioned for recreation with mountains, lakes, and seacoast all within easy drive. Served by a good public transit system, Boston is an eminently walkable (and bikeable) city.
Required Skills and Qualities

- An agricultural background, preferably including experience in an academic/educational setting.
- Proven experience managing or aiding in the management of a working farm.
- Knowledge of and interest in organic agriculture and emerging sustainability practices.
- A desire to teach agricultural skills and related concepts, techniques, and crafts to middle school students (grades five through nine).
- An entrepreneurial spirit and an enthusiasm for problem solving, innovation and creative thinking.
- An ability to effectively multi-task and to assume both the tactical and administrative aspects of the position.
- The willingness to strategically assess a current program and the drive to bring a new vision to life.
- Integrity, flexibility, and a sense of humor.
- A bachelor’s degree.

Opportunities

- To energize and modernize a longstanding farm initiative with the goal of making it a signature program.
- To collaborate with other Hillside educators and innovators on how to best leverage, position, and market the farm.
- To fully integrate the Hillside farm and its unique advantages into the curriculum and culture of the school.
- To aid in the specialized recruitment of prospective students with an interest and affinity for agriculture.
- To improve and redesign the farm property and facility.
- To strategically assess the farm’s current plant, animal, and equipment inventory.
- To be a high impact member of a thriving, dynamic, and supportive boarding school community.

Benefits

- Competitive salary commensurate with experience, comprehensive benefits package, campus housing, and extensive professional development opportunities.

Contact

Interested individuals should email a resume with “Farm Director” in the subject line to:

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All inquiries are confidential.