

POSITION STATEMENT

Shorecrest Preparatory School

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA



HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL SEARCH
START DATE: JULY 1, 2026

Shorecrest
Preparatory School





OVERVIEW

Located in the heart of vibrant St. Petersburg, Florida—often celebrated as the Sunshine City—Shorecrest Preparatory School is a dynamic PK3–12 community known for its commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and belonging. Founded in 1923, Shorecrest has grown into one of the Tampa Bay region’s most respected independent schools, distinguished by its student-centered approach, exceptional faculty, and forward-thinking program that nurtures curiosity, compassion, and purpose.

Shorecrest’s mission—to educate a diverse community of students to become lifelong learners in the pursuit of personal and academic excellence, physical well-being, creative achievement, and social responsibility—guides every aspect of school life. Its core values of Responsibility, Respect, Integrity, Knowledge, and Compassion shape the relationships and culture that define the Shorecrest experience.

The Upper School (Grades 9–12) is an inclusive and academically ambitious community where students are challenged and supported in equal measure. Whether exploring advanced coursework, collaborating on research, engaging in service, performing on stage, competing on athletic fields or in robotics contests, or leading clubs and affinity groups, students discover their passions and develop the skills to thrive in college and beyond.

Shorecrest now seeks a Head of Upper School, beginning July 1, 2026, to partner closely with the Head of School and the senior leadership team in guiding this outstanding division. The next Head of Upper School will join a talented faculty, a supportive parent community, and a diverse student body eager for connection, challenge, and leadership. This is a compelling opportunity for an innovative, relational, mission-driven educator to help shape the next chapter of a dynamic and beloved community.

SHORECREST PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Mission

Shorecrest is a college preparatory school that educates a diverse community of students to become lifelong learners in the pursuit of personal and academic excellence, physical well-being, creative achievement, and the development of a commitment to social responsibility.

Vision

Create a legacy of inclusive, innovative, and transformational education that ignites the potential of all learners.

Core Values

Responsibility, Respect, Integrity, Knowledge, Compassion

THE UPPER SCHOOL AT SHORECREST

The Upper School is shaped by meaningful relationships, broad academic choice, and an intentional balance between challenge and support. Serving approximately 300 students in Grades 9–12, the division offers pathways that allow students to explore interests deeply, stretch their thinking, and prepare for success in college and life beyond Shorecrest.

Students may choose from more than 20 Advanced Placement courses and a wide range of electives including Robotics, Women's Studies, Digital Film, and faculty-mentored independent studies. Signature programs—such as the Peck Center for Medical Sciences, the STEAM Signature Program, the Global Scholars Initiative, and the Ross Roeder Institute for Financial Literacy, Economics & Entrepreneurship—enable students to explore focused areas of study in fields of growing relevance.

The Independent Study Program encourages students to pursue advanced projects in areas of personal passion, while partnerships with a nationwide online consortium further expand course offerings.

Recognizing the importance of student wellness, Shorecrest has designed a daily schedule that promotes balance, collaboration, and well-being. Learning support resources are open to all Upper School students—whether they seek additional reinforcement, skill development, or academic enrichment—reflecting the school's commitment to ensuring every learner is equipped for success.



Student voice is central to the Upper School experience. Advisory groups foster belonging and provide space for students to explore identity, well-being, and self-advocacy. A broad range of clubs, affinity groups, and organizations create opportunities for leadership, creativity, and service.

Nearly 70% of Upper School students compete on at least one athletic team, fostering teamwork, resilience, and school pride. Award-winning visual and performing arts programs enrich school life through performances, exhibitions, and productions that highlight student creativity and dedication.

With a team of four experienced college counselors and programming that begins in 9th grade, the College Counseling Office guides students and families through a personalized college search process that emphasizes fit, balance, and self-discovery.

Learn more about the Upper School and watch the “Day in the Life” video: <https://www.shorecrest.org/academics/upper-school-grades-9-12->

Additional Arts and Athletics information:

Arts:

<https://www.shorecrest.org/school-life/arts>

Athletics:

<https://www.shorecrest.org/school-life/athletics>

Signature Programs:

<https://www.shorecrest.org/academics/signature-programs/signature-programs>

THE UPPER SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY

Key Responsibilities for the Head of Upper School

The Head of Upper School leads all aspects of the Grades 9–12 program and serves as the division's chief academic and community leader. In partnership with the Head of School, senior leadership team, and Upper School faculty, the Head of Upper School is responsible for:

- Ensuring a vibrant, student-centered program aligned with Shorecrest's mission and core values.
- Supporting, supervising, and developing a talented faculty and administrative team.
- Overseeing curriculum, instruction, scheduling, student support, and academic policies.
- Fostering a culture of balance, belonging, accountability, and academic excellence.
- Partnering with families through proactive, transparent communication.
- Collaborating across divisions to promote alignment and continuity.
- Serving as an engaged presence across classrooms, community spaces, the arts, and athletics.

- Supporting the holistic development of students—academic, social-emotional, and the development of lifelong skills.
- Advancing schoolwide initiatives around diversity and inclusion, wellness, experiential learning, and innovation.

PRIORITIES, OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

Reinforce Systems of Accountability Aligned with Core Values

Shorecrest benefits from strong faculty talent, deep student support structures, and a culture where students are known well; yet the division needs clearer systems of follow-through and accountability. The next Head of Upper School will articulate expectations rooted in the school's core values and ensure that policies, community standards, and academic norms are consistently upheld. This work calls for a visible leader who models professionalism, inspires trust, and strengthens alignment across departments. With clarity and consistency, the division can operate with greater coherence and shared purpose.



"I believe that the unity across grades and divisions of the school makes Shorecrest unique, as well as its small class sizes and commitment to inclusion." —Student

“Many organizations claim that their mission statement guides everything they do, but I haven’t seen any school or company live up to that ideal as effectively as Shorecrest. Every decision they make clearly reflects their dedication to their mission. Even initiatives that might seem unrelated—like late-start Thursdays—are thoughtfully designed to support their commitment to the physical well-being of students.”
—Parent

Define and Communicate a Vision of Academic Excellence

Families and students value Shorecrest’s breadth of offerings, signature programs, and student choice, yet many seek a clearer definition of what academic excellence looks like in the Upper School. The next leader will articulate a vision that balances rigor, wellness, and individualized pathways while reinforcing essential skills for all learners. A compelling, entrepreneurial leader can champion this vision and strengthen the school’s academic identity.

Strengthen Teaching Practice and Faculty Culture

Relationships are a hallmark of the Upper School, and faculty care deeply about students. At the same time, teachers seek more mentorship, robust professional development, and consistent instructional leadership. The next Head of Upper School will set shared goals, support meaningful feedback, and cultivate a collaborative, growth-oriented faculty culture. With energy and authenticity, the right leader can galvanize morale and create renewed collective momentum.

Reinvigorate the Division’s Narrative and Strengthen Community Confidence

Shorecrest’s signature programs, student support systems, and college counseling are powerful assets, but families and faculty crave a more cohesive, inspiring narrative about the Upper School. The next Head of Upper School will elevate the division’s story, highlight its distinctiveness, and rebuild community trust. A charismatic, high-visibility leader can energize the community, strengthen retention, and cultivate pride in the program’s future.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

Shorecrest seeks a visible, relational, and academically driven leader who embraces the school’s mission and values. The next Head of Upper School will be a thoughtful and compassionate educator who brings clarity, consistency, and optimism to their leadership.

Leadership Attributes

- Approachable and student-centered, with a meaningful presence across campus.
- Empathetic and caring, with a genuine interest in student and faculty well-being.
- Decisive yet collaborative, balancing inclusivity with clear, confident leadership.
- Transparent and communicative, offering clarity of vision and strong follow-through.
- A community builder who values unity, belonging, and shared purpose.
- A connector across divisions who strengthens alignment from Middle to Upper School.

Academic and Instructional Leadership

- Deep understanding of curriculum design, pedagogy, and assessment.
- Commitment to academic excellence and innovation while protecting balance and wellness.

- Experience supporting faculty through coaching, professional development, and recognition.
- Dedication to strong college readiness and supporting students through the college process.

Strategic and Organizational Skills

- Strong systems thinker capable of aligning structures with schoolwide goals.
- Skilled in operational management and data-informed decision-making.
- Clear communicator with strong organizational follow-through.
- Ability to build effective procedures, clarify roles, and support professional accountability.

Personal Qualities

- Emotional intelligence, humility, and integrity.
- A calm, balanced demeanor with warmth, humor, and optimism.
- A visible, empathetic presence whose leadership strengthens the sense of community that defines Shorecrest.

“Shorecrest is a place where you can thrive, but where it is also ok and supported to take risks, even if you fail with something new. In addition, the autonomy given to teachers and the time we are given for planning is rare in other places, yet so very valued and appreciated beyond what words can express here.” —Teacher



HOW TO APPLY

Candidates interested in applying to be the Head of Upper School at Shorecrest Preparatory School may apply online at: <https://secure10.saashr.com/ta/6107458.careers?ShowJob=671808769>

Required application materials:

- Letter of interest addressing: Why Shorecrest, and why now?
- Resume
- Personal Statement or Educational Philosophy

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis throughout the winter.
The Selected Head of Upper School will begin in July 2026.

For questions about the search, please contact Adam Peichert, the consultant from Resource Group 175 supporting this search at: adam.peichert@rg175.com
Thank you for your interest in Shorecrest Preparatory School. We look forward to learning more about your interest in this exciting opportunity.