



Perelman Jewish Day School

Head of School

Philadelphia, PA

About Perelman

Perelman Jewish Day School (PJDS) was founded in 1956 in a small room in the basement of Har Zion Temple in Philadelphia, with just 39 students enrolled.

Today, PJDS is known as Raymond and Ruth Perelman Jewish Day School. Over the last 6 decades, PJDS has expanded to serve over 300 students in two centers located on beautiful campuses in Wynnewood and Melrose Park. The school is accredited by the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS), a member of the Association of Delaware Valley Independent Schools (ADVIS) and Prizmah: Center for Jewish Day Schools.

The school serves students from all types of families and socio-economic backgrounds. PJDS is a diverse and caring community, where every student has a special place.

The Perelman Difference- "At Perelman, we teach our kids to think differently and encourage them to interpret, reason and see the world across multiple subjects. We offer unmatched academics supported by cutting edge technology, engaging activities and exceptional teachers who nurture and challenge every child."

PJDS currently serves 309 students at two campuses (227 at Stern and 82 at Forman) who come from throughout the greater area of Philadelphia. The school's annual budget is \$10 million and has an annual fundraising campaign of \$1M with a \$25M endowment.

More information about the school can be found on the web at: <https://www.pjds.org/>.

Position

The Head of School will serve as the Chief Executive Officer and the public face of PJDS and will lead an engaged community of learners, parents, faculty and staff. As the professional leader, the Head of School will be a critical voice in setting the tone, nurturing PJDS's school culture as a warm, welcoming and safe communal environment that fosters individual attention and life-long appreciation of Jewish values and traditions.

Reporting to, working closely with and helping the Board Chair in leading the Board of Directors, the Head of School will have ultimate responsibility for the articulation and implementation of PJDS's vision and mission, and will advance the school's commitment to the highest educational standards in general and Jewish studies and Hebrew language learning. The Head of School will lead efforts to define strategic priorities and motivate, empower, and collaborate with the entire school community in setting the course for sustained growth. The Head of School will oversee and lead all operations for both campuses, including supervision of the school's administrative team, oversight of school finances, advancement of resource development, and student retention and enrollment.

A primary draw for prospective parents to PJDS is its warm and inclusive community. PJDS has made it a priority to be accepting for all families, all sects of Judaism and has continued to be a place where interfaith

families feel accepted. PJDS is a close-knit family where students are excited about Jewish life. Collaboration and teamwork are essential to the success of the school.

The Head of School is expected to be a charismatic, inspiring, engaging and warm presence within the school as well as the greater Jewish Philadelphia community, a truly regarded presence externally. A successful Head of School for PJDS will be a dynamic ambassador to the wider Jewish communal and independent school scenes.

The Head of School will have an eye for talent and will possess strong management skills. The Head of School will attract, lead, and support a team of dedicated faculty and staff and continue to nurture a challenging and caring learning environment for students.

The Head of School will work closely with the Board of Directors and the development professionals to encourage and empower the talent, creativity, and resources of the community. The Head of School will have expertise and robust fundraising capacity to actively engage with the annual campaign, successfully cultivate and steward donors, and solicit major gifts.

This position will require a decisive leader who has a passion for Jewish education and appreciation for students and their well-being; an individual who knows how to support, lead and manage a team of talented faculty and staff.

This is a unique opportunity for a bold, entrepreneurial leader with the temperament and ability to be a transformative change agent, ensuring the institution attains new heights as an innovative, leading 21st century school.

Priorities

- *Be a strategic visionary and change agent. Lead the community to make decisions and implement changes*
- *Create, build and maintain relationships throughout current and prospective families as part of a focus on enrollment and sustainability*
- *Create, build and maintain donor relationships (existing and new) to be able to raise dollars*
- *Maintain the Jewish, Hebrew, and academic excellence; recruit, retain and inspire teachers and staff to be the best possible educators and professionals*
- *Engage all communities across the geographically expansive greater Philadelphia area and manage school structure to serve those communities*
- *Lead the community and all stakeholders to envision and develop a Pre-K-12 school through a merger, joint-venture or any option that is viable and respectful of the Philadelphia Jewish community*

Qualifications

PJDS seeks a Head of School who will be a warm, inspiring, and decisive leader who can articulate a strategic vision for the school and galvanize community partners in its support. In addition, the Head of School will be a strong manager, institution builder, fundraiser and community leader. The successful Head of School will also possess many of the following:

- Proven track record as an organizational leader and/or educational administrator with an ability to adapt and lead in changing circumstances and conditions.

- Understanding of and connection to Jewish education and Jewish continuity
- Displays empathetic leadership skills and the ability to connect with and move/transitioned communities into new things
- Open and collaborative management and leadership style. Comfort with soliciting input from others while still being decisive and independent in the decision-making process.
- Demonstrated track record of identifying, attracting, and developing top talent.
- Exhibits diplomatic finesse- able to work collaboratively with individuals across the ideological spectrum
- Dynamic relationship builder who displays a sincere interest in each student, each teacher, each donor, each parent, each community member and engages them with the values and ethos of their community.
- Excellent people skills. Ability to interact and engage comfortably with a wide variety of key constituents including board members, parents, faculty, students, major donors and community leaders. Warm, honest and fair approach in dealing with others.
- Committed to ensuring and furthering the school's commitment to diversity.
- Excellent and transparent written and oral communication skills that complement and enhance the role of being an inspiring leader and ambassador.
- Passion for the power of learning and the ability to articulate the unique experience of a Jewish Day School education to prepare the students of today for the challenges of tomorrow.
- High-level executive functioning (be responsive, be on time, etc.) and financial acumen; able to design and prepare budgets and set financial priorities.
- Successful track record of being engaged in and appreciative of fundraising; ability to partner with staff and lay leaders in the process

This position description is based upon material provided by Perelman Jewish Day School, an equal opportunity employer.

Sarah Raful Whinston, *Senior Search Consultant*
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To apply to this position please visit www.DRGsearch.com