SUN VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Director of Educational Technology and Innovation

SUMMARY

Location | Sun Valley, ID

Post Date | October 21, 2021

Application Deadline | November 29, 2021 at 5pm MST

On-Site Final Round | Week of January 3

Decision Announced | January 18, 2022

Start Date | July 1, 2022

Reports To | Head of School

SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITY

Sun Valley Community School is excited to hire a Director of Educational Technology and Innovation to begin July 1, 2022. This role will be integral in redefining and reshaping the educational technology landscape of our school. Sun Valley Community School understands the power of technology and the increasing importance of digital competency in our students' lives, within our classrooms and beyond. Over the last few years our Technology Program has expanded both instructionally and operationally, and we see more opportunities for growth and improvement. For this reason, we seek an aspirational, innovative, and motivated person who is ready, willing, and able to reshape the future of our Technology Program with the support of the Head of School, Leadership Team, and Board of Trustees. The Director will serve as a member of the school's leadership team, report to the Head of School, and will be a vital part of our school programs.

The Director of Educational Technology and Innovation will discover that our Sun Valley Community School family is deeply excited about this new role, and we look forward to the elevated and improved technology and learning experiences our students will gain.

SUN VALLEY: MORE THAN JUST A DESTINATION

A MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY

Our school is located in Sun Valley, Idaho, home to a world-renowned ski resort and a popular gateway to many outdoor adventures. Sun Valley, a mountain town, is one of the municipalities in Blaine County, which has a total population of about 23,000. Blaine County is home to four communities that are connected by a highway, a bike path, and a general love for the outdoors. Because Sun Valley is a destination resort, the surrounding communities offer many cultural opportunities that one would expect to find in more urban areas. Our faculty and staff live in Ketchum, Sun Valley, Hailey, and Bellevue, with the majority living in Hailey. South Central Idaho, where Sun Valley is located, is surrounded by rural farming communities, but the nearest metropolitan area, Boise, is only 2.5 hours away. The Sun Valley airport also offers daily and seasonal flights to Denver, San Francisco, Seattle, Salt Lake City, and Los Angeles.

WHO ARE WE?

Leave the coat and ties at the front door. Sun Valley Community School is an informal school where you will hear students calling their teachers by their first names, making tea and biscuits while discussing the math equation on the board, or having a friendly debate while sitting on a couch in a classroom or hallway. We value our long-standing traditions, even with our growth, and appreciate the joy of spending time together across all divisions as one school.

SCHOOL PROFILE

Sun Valley Community School was founded in 1973 to provide students with an outstanding independent education. Sun Valley Community School enrolls students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. A thriving Residential Program, founded in 2011, attracts mission-aligned students from around the nation and the world.

NOT ALL CLASSROOMS HAVE WALLS

Learning happens everywhere. We engage our students across our campuses, the wilderness, and the world. Our standard-setting academic program together with creative arts and athletic programming and a renowned Outdoor Program instill confidence, self-reliance, teamwork skills, and leadership qualities. We encourage students to pursue their passions actively, whether on the stage, the field, the slopes, or in the classroom or wilderness. Signature programs, which are offered in our Upper School, include the Outdoor Leadership Academy (OLA), Sun Valley Ski Academy (SVSA), and Creative Arts Academy (CAA).

ACADEMIES

Creative Arts Academy offers Upper School students the opportunity to pursue an in-depth exploration of drama, visual arts, or music. The curriculum combines pre-professional training in the arts with the school's comprehensive academic program. CAA students will develop a portfolio of their work.

Outdoor Leadership Academy is a program that empowers students to fuel their outdoor passions, become environmental stewards, and gain outdoor experience and certifications, while developing risk management and leadership skills in dynamic situations transferable to any setting. OLA students develop leadership skills and a love and respect for wild places. Students earn outdoor certifications and develop the outdoor skills needed to lead outdoor trips. Students focus on a number of disciplines including Mountain and Rock, River, Backcountry Winter Travel, or Wilderness Travel.

Sun Valley Ski Academy offers competitive alpine, big mountain, cross-country, freeski, freestyle skiers the support and flexibility to pursue their on-snow ambitions at the highest level. Our partnership with the Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation offers promising athletes access to world-class coaching, training, and competition, combined with our school's excellent college preparatory program. We have a long history of placing winter athletes at their best-fit colleges around the world.

OTHER PROGRAMS

The *Athletics Program* is broad and diverse, with sports including soccer, cross country running, volleyball, basketball, tennis, golf, and track. A significant number of students compete for the Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation's alpine, cross country, freeski, freestyle, big mountain, and snowboarding teams. Individual students compete in figure skating, ice hockey, lacrosse, football, mountain biking, equestrian events, and more.

Through our renowned *Outdoor Program*, pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade students learn and find meaningful challenges when they step outside their comfort zone through outdoor experiences in our backyard and in surrounding Western states. These transformative trips foster connection, impart lessons practical and profound, and instill a lifelong love for wild places. Each class from age two to eighteen takes a minimum of three seasonal outdoor trips per school year.

The *Boarding Program* is different here. Our residential students are a community of committed student-athletes, outdoor enthusiasts, and intrepid travelers who choose to make their home at 5,853 feet in the unparalleled mountain-town setting of Sun Valley, Idaho. Some students are competitive skiers who want to excel in their sport with the best training possible on one of the best ski teams in the country, while getting a well-rounded college prep education. Other students choose our Boarding Program because they want to have a rigorous academic experience merged with a well-established and innovative Outdoor Program that intentionally builds outdoor leadership skills.

MISSION AND VISION

MISSION

From our campus to the wilderness, we inspire students to think critically, engage confidently, embrace challenges, and lead impactful, purposeful lives.

VISION

To be a leading preK-12 independent day and boarding school recognized nationally and internationally for our academic excellence, preeminent Outdoor Program, world-class ski academy, and ability to nurture student aspirations. We will achieve this while maintaining our unique culture, which fosters self-confident leaders. From here...anywhere.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

To best prepare our students for a world that is increasingly interconnected and global in nature, Sun Valley Community School works to create an inclusive and welcoming culture. The School believes there is tremendous value in having a diverse community of students, parents, board directors, faculty and staff, valuing and celebrating each individual across a spectrum of age, ethnicity, family structure, gender identity, learning style, physical ability, political perspective, privilege, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

We recognize the need for ongoing education, dialogue and engagement around cultural competency and social justice, and we are committed to doing this work. The School expects every member of its community to support this work as an extension of the School's mission and guiding principles.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Sun Valley Community School is a dynamic academic environment that prepares our preKindergarten through 12th grade students for a world that is forever evolving. Our students actively acquire a proven body of knowledge and develop a useful array of skills and abilities. The principles articulated here derive from our experience as educators and lifelong learners. They are drawn from state-of-the-art research about schools, human development, brain development, teaching, and learning. They shape what happens educationally in our classroom and beyond. They constitute a standard by which we assess our success in fulfilling our mission. Although the impact of a Sun Valley Community School education varies from student to student, with these ambitions at the forefront, this common set of educational principles guides and unifies us as educators, students, and families. The principles apply to all grade levels, pre-kindergarten through 12, and they constitute a commitment to our students and their families.

Principle #1: ***Inquiry-based learning*** and the application of ***critical thinking*** are our prevailing modes of instruction. We foster mastery of content and logical thinking based on authentic situations, relevant questions, and valid assessments. We facilitate innovative student generated solutions to challenging problems relevant to their lives.

Principle #2: Within the framework of a college-preparatory curriculum, we encourage students to ***pursue their personal interests and passions with energy and conviction***. We believe that learning is more enduring when it connects to the identity and values of a student. As a result, each student's interests are recognized and reinforced by our faculty and programs. We foster a readiness to pursue a deep level of understanding, because experiences in depth have the greatest impact on learning.

Principle #3: We encourage a ***global perspective*** and learning that derives from different traditions and ways of thinking. Students develop the skills to function comfortably and effectively in a global environment. Through our curriculum and programs, we expose students to diverse cultures and traditions, and we use the whole environment to foster learning and personal growth. Our classrooms are dynamic places that draw on the outside world through innovative uses of technology, visitors, simulations, and real-world projects. Further, our learning environment is not restricted solely to the classroom. We extend the classroom to wherever our students are exploring and learning.

Principle #4: We foster *intimate and inclusive learning environments*, defined by small classes, informality, close faculty-student relationships, respect and compassion toward others, appreciation of differences, collaborative learning, and classroom participation. While maintaining high expectations for each student, we meet students where they are, intellectually and developmentally, while nurturing intellectual, emotional and moral development. We guide students to create their own definition of personal excellence and to take personal responsibility for their education. We define success by progress made as well as by established indices of achievement.

Principle #5: We encourage and share a *love of nature and environmental stewardship*. By taking students to the natural environment of mountains, rivers, deserts and ocean, we teach students to be comfortable, knowledgeable and competent in the natural environment. Through the Outdoor Program and our curriculum, we foster leadership skills by our commitment to the preservation of our natural world and by modeling sustainable practices.

Principle #6: Whether in the classroom, in the theater, on the athletic field, or in the outdoors, we encourage students to *seek new challenges and to push beyond their comfortable limits*. We encourage a student's sense of adventure and exploration; students are asked to try new things, to take on and manage risk, and to embrace setbacks as an integral part of growing and learning. Through these challenging experiences, we help our students develop the capacities of resilience and grit so they are better prepared to meet whatever challenges they may face while achieving excellence in their lives.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

At Sun Valley Community School, we are committed to preparing students across divisions to use ever-evolving technology in intelligent, innovative, creative, productive, and ethical ways. We understand the important role that technology plays in the current and future lives of our Cutthroat students, and desire to give them the tools to succeed in an increasingly technical world. We strive to find synergy between our unique programs. Whether we are overlapping creative arts with outdoor programming, technology with art, or science with English, we strive to create well rounded and interesting opportunities that show an appreciation for where we live, while preparing students for the world outside of the classroom.

STREAM

STREAM (Science, Technology, Robotics, Engineering, Arts & Architecture, and Math) Programming across divisions is focused on building strong skills in inquiry and problem solving through an intentional delivery of educational programs. Teachers work with educational technology faculty to develop learning activities that incorporate technology, engineering, and design thinking. Ideas are then brought to life with hands-on projects such as creating circuits, designing and building robots, programming animations and games, and constructing prototypes. These projects demonstrate and reinforce the principles that students are learning in the classroom.
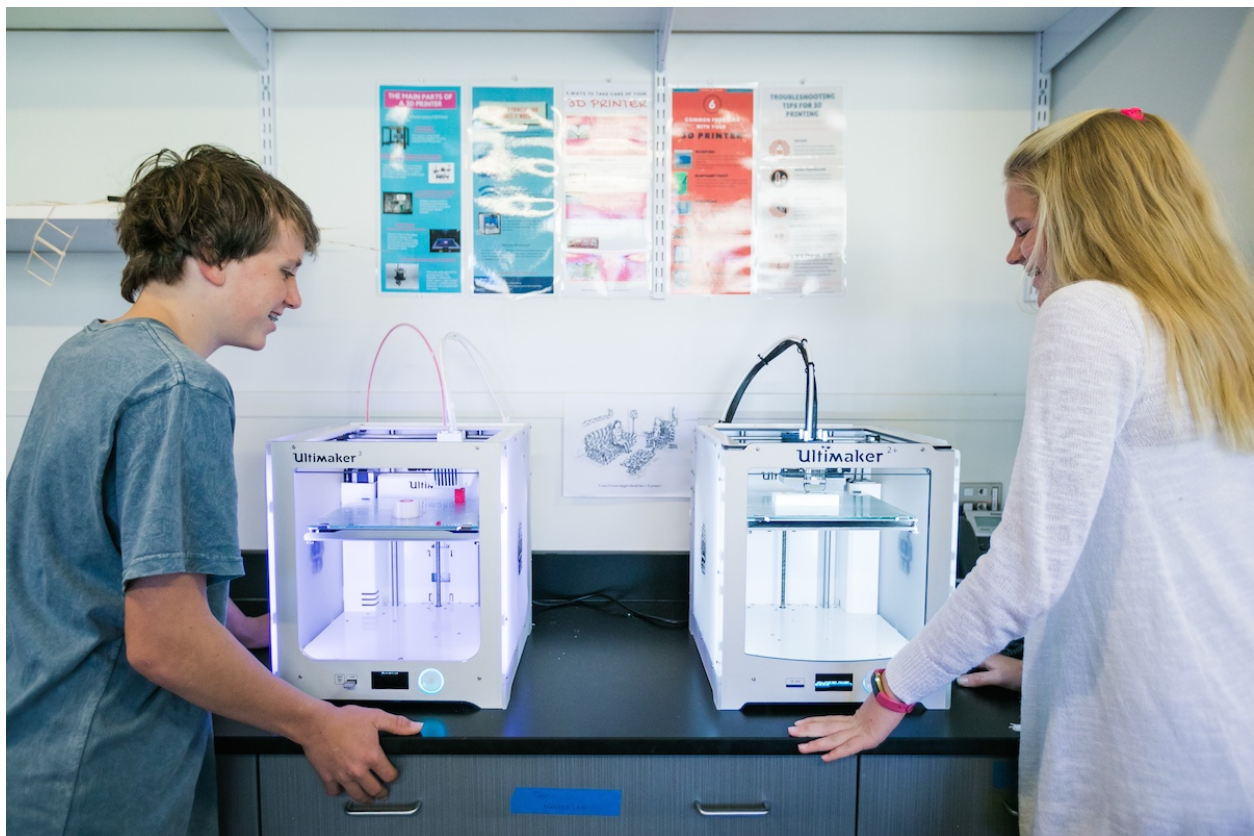
DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

We understand that digital media and technology is evolving at a rapid pace, bringing with it amazing opportunities as well as real risks for our students. Sun Valley Community School primarily uses Common Sense Media's curriculum to empower students with knowledge and help them make smart choices. The curriculum centers on eight main categories based on the digital ethics research of Howard Gardner, PhD and The Good Play Project at Harvard Graduate School of Education. Digital Citizenship classes are taught throughout the year in grades kindergarten through eight and are integrated into the Computer Science class curriculum at the Upper School level.

SWIFT FAMILY MAKERS' LAB

The Swift Family Makers' Lab, located in Hagenbuch Hall for the Creative Arts and Middle School, provides a space where students in grades kindergarten through 12 can imagine, explore, design, tinker, and innovate. Specifically, the lab offers resources for programming, electronics, robotics, and 3D printing. Throughout the year, students of all ages work in the lab with educational technology staff on projects that include wood and cardboard construction, designing and building circuits and robots, and prototyping with 3D design. At Sun Valley Community School, any student can become a tech specialist.

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Founded: 1973

Location and Campus: We have three beautiful campuses totaling 47 acres. Our Trail Creek Campus is our main campus, with all academic programming from our Early Childhood Center to Upper School classrooms. Trail Creek Campus backs up to Dollar Mountain and the Trail Creek runs through campus. This campus is also home to our quad, gymnasium "The Fishtank," as well as our 200+ seat theater.

Our Dumke Family Sagewillow Campus is home to our three soccer fields, Outdoor Program outfitting center, and a training location for our partner, Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation. Through our partnership, we have converted an old equestrian barn into a year-round indoor trampoline and skate ramp facility for our athletes on the big mountain, freestyle, and freeski teams. Athletes can practice their inverted tricks in a safe environment before taking their skills to the slopes. Our cross country ski athletes also train at Sagewillow, with a newly paved 1.5km rollerski track and a state-of-the-art cross country ski treadmill to help take them to the next level.

Rufus M. Brown Hall is our newest campus, and is home to our boarding students who come from around the world to live here and take advantage of our extraordinary programming. Our "dorm" houses up to 36 students and 6 staff members, and is one of the newest and most modern dorms in the nation. Study spaces, a media lounge, a game room, ski tuning room, and dining hall are all housed in Rufus M. Brown Hall. The most beloved space is our Julia Argyros Training Center, our 3,200 square foot fully-equipped gym where our athletes train year-round.

Students and Families: Our enrollment is nearly 450 students, including 22 boarding students. Since our boarding program's inception we have welcomed boarders from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, Japan, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States with the largest concentration of students coming from the Western United States.

College Matriculation: 100 percent of Sun Valley Community School students who apply are accepted for admission to college; 80 percent of Sun Valley Community School students who apply are accepted into their first or second choice college.

Admission and Retention: Admission rate of 37%; enroll rate of 89%; retention rate of 93%

Faculty: 108 faculty and staff members, with over 50% holding advanced degrees in their field; faculty-to-student ratio of 6:1

Accreditation: National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS); Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS); The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS); Cognia

Relevant Associations and Memberships: National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS); Northwest Association of Independent Schools (NWAIS); The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS); National Business Officers Association (NBOA)

Tuition: Ranges from $12,420 (Early Childhood) to $33,380 (Upper School)

Operating Budget: $12,000,000

Financial Aid: $2,500,000 annually

Endowment: $10,000,000

Website: www.communityschool.org

QUOTE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

"We are very excited to welcome a Director of Educational Technology and Innovation to our wonderful school. This is a tremendous opportunity for an innovative and forward-thinking person to expand our educational technology and enhance our school's programming. Our new Director will play a crucial leadership role and will foster the next innovative and exciting chapter of Sun Valley Community School."

— Ben Pettit, Head of School

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

SPECIFIC DUTIES

Educational Innovation and Instructional Technology Leadership

- Lead a collaborative process to develop and implement a K-12 strategic vision and curricular arc for technology — including maker, design, computer science, and related disciplines — that is aligned to the school's overall strategic plan, values, culture, and individual divisional and departmental needs.

- Evaluate instructional technology tools and guide senior academic leaders on strategic and operational decisions involving hardware, software, and programs in service to enhanced student learning and innovative pedagogy.

- Design, deliver, and oversee professional development and growth experiences in areas of technology integration and instructional design, and work 1:1 with faculty to establish trust and build excitement for leveraging technology in the curriculum.

Technology Service Management and Oversight

- Oversee the successful delivery of technology services on three campuses, including: IT, enterprise data / systems, and event, AV, and classroom technologies.

- Serve as the school's primary project manager for enterprise-wide data transitions, and manage all outside technology vendors, contractors, and part-time specialists.

- Align departmental procedures, policies, and end-user support with the mission and culture of the school to build effective bridges and partnerships with end-users.

- Deliver training and technology support to end-users.

Leadership and General Duties

- Establish and maintain local, regional, and national connections to support the strategic goals of the school's technology program.

- Serve as an active member of the Leadership Team, manage the departmental budget, supervise other members of the tech team (faculty and staff), and perform other duties as assigned.

SUN VALLEY COMMUNITY SCHOOL SEEKS CANDIDATES WITH...

Professional Qualifications:

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university

- Experience designing, delivering, and coordinating technology workshops and trainings, preferably for teachers in a K-12 school

- Classroom teaching experience, preferably in a K-12 school

- Experience integrating technology into process workflows or classroom instruction, or supporting others in their use and integration of technology

- Experience coordinating major technology projects or initiatives for an organization

- A fundamental understanding of management-level IT principles and best practices

- Experience as an administrator or manager of enterprise data systems

Leadership and Personal Qualities:

- A genuine interest in instructional technology and pedagogical innovation — and an ability to inspire and support faculty to explore and try new ideas

- A passion and interest for overseeing all areas of technology — IT, data/systems, and instructional — even if prior experiences in these areas are not equal

- An interest in and support of diversity work, both in training and in implementation

- Inspirational, pragmatic, and diplomatic leadership that is sensitive to the needs of a dynamic and diverse faculty and staff

- A collaborative, cooperative, empathetic, collegial, innovative, and patient mindset

- Excellent communication skills: written, verbal, presentation, and training

- A commitment to the mission and values of Sun Valley Community School, and in particular a passion for outdoor education and experiential learning

- Confidence and humility, together with a sense of humor and warm personality

- Capability to lift up to 25 pounds and access hardware in hard-to-reach spaces

Preferred, Though not Required:

- Experience administering data systems that are part of Blackbaud's ON suite

WE SEEK A DIRECTOR WHO IS...

Appreciative of the outdoors	**Approachable**	**Aspirational**
Curious	**Energetic**	**Flexible**
Friendly	**Innovative**	**Inquisitive**
Inspiring	**Passionate**	**Pioneering**
Relational	**Solutions-oriented**	**Visionary**

HOW TO APPLY

Ed Tech Recruiting is acting on behalf of Sun Valley Community School to identify exceptional instructional technology and innovation design educators to fill this extraordinary opportunity. Please direct any inquiries to:

Gabriel Lucas
Principal, Ed Tech Recruiting
jobs@EdTechRecruiting.com

APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED THROUGH NOVEMBER 29, 2021.

All applications must be submitted online, via:

www.EdTechRecruiting.com/jobs/SVCS

An application requires submitting four PDFs:

- Cover letter introducing yourself to the search committee

- CV or résumé

- A list of four references (include each person's name, current organization, title, phone number, email, and past connection to you — though we will not contact any references without obtaining your permission first)

- A response to the following prompt:

  Sun Valley Community School is a school, campus, and community that is immersed in and deeply connected to the outdoors. How would this unique characteristic inform your vision and leadership for the school's K-12 Technology Program?