

POSITION STATEMENT



Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts
Houston, Texas

Principal

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THE OPPORTUNITY

As Kinder HSPVA, a Houston Independent School District 9-12 secondary school, prepares to celebrate its 50th year of excellence in the arts and academics, it continues to celebrate what makes this institution one of the nation’s most prestigious high schools: a proud heritage, dedicated staff, successful alumni, supportive parents, strong community partnerships, and – most importantly – talented and hardworking students. Walking the halls, visitors cannot help but be inspired by its 800 students from all across Houston eagerly collaborating in creative writing, dance, theatre, vocal and instrumental music, visual arts, and academics.

Kinder HSPVA has received numerous honors and awards since its inception and is consistently ranked among the best public high schools in Houston, Texas, and the U.S. Thirty-two students have received the Presidential Scholars in the Arts award, the highest honor for high-school artists. In addition, more than 100 students have been named winners in the prestigious National YoungArts competition. Over the years, the school has received countless accolades including: Nationally Recognized Blue Ribbon School, the Rockefeller Award for Excellence in Arts Education, Coca-Cola Foundation Distinguished Arts School, 2017-2022 Exemplary Arts School by Arts Schools Network, and multiple Grammy Signature School Awards.

Class of 2020 Achievements (185 graduates):

- Scholarships Offered: \$25,254,072+
- National Merit Scholars: 5
- National Merit Finalists: 4
- National Merit Commended Students: 11
- National Hispanic Recognition Program: 7
- AP Scholars: 32
- AP Scholars with Honor: 14
- AP Scholars with Distinction: 48
- National AP Scholars: 14

Without a doubt, one of the keys to Kinder HSPVA’s success has been consistent, steadfast leadership. In fifty years, this school has been under the leadership of only five principals – each with a unique point of view but also a shared commitment to seeing their goals to fruition. Under the guidance of a dynamic new principal, Kinder HSPVA looks forward to continued progress toward fulfilling the school’s mission to provide a balanced program of rigorous training in the arts and academics.



KINDER HSPVA'S STRENGTHS

Mission and Philosophy

Mission: By cultivating both artistic and academic excellence in a diverse environment, Kinder HSPVA builds the confidence and enthusiasm required for an accomplished creative future.

Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (Kinder HSPVA) recognizes and values student individuality. It nurtures, without exception, the values of individual accomplishment and independence. Since individual creativity is integral to the production of art, our faculty and staff work with students on a human level that stimulates intellectual, artistic, and technical originality. We strive to graduate people who can work independently and creatively.

At the same time, Kinder HSPVA places high value on community. Students and teachers couple their sense of individual worth with a sense of responsibility to society, creating a dichotomy that inspires the many rhythms of the school. Kinder HSPVA does not have a large set of rules for marching to the beat of a single drum. Instead, its guidelines allow for personal freedom and accomplishment within a community that respects the rhythms of other drummers.



A Reputation Built on Fifty Years of Success

HSPVA evolved in 1971 from a realization that gifted young artists need highly specialized and rigorous training in the arts to be prepared for the intense competition they will meet in colleges, conservatories, and the professional arts world. The school's creation represented the first attempt by any public high school in the nation to correlate an academic program with concentrated training in the arts. For HISD, the formation of HSPVA represented a dramatic departure from traditional comprehensive programs. It was also the first U.S. public school for the arts specifically used for racial desegregation purposes, becoming the pilot school for today's magnet school concept. HSPVA continues to be a model arts high school for cities across the nation.

The first HSPVA campus was at the former Temple Beth Israel in Houston's Midtown area. In 1982, the school moved to its second campus in Houston's Montrose neighborhood. Then, in January 2019, HSPVA made the highly anticipated move to its first fully custom campus located in the center of Downtown. At that time, HSPVA adopted the name Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in recognition of a transformational gift from the Kinder Foundation.

One way to measure Kinder HSPVA's success is by the successes of its alumni, many of whom return to campus to visit and mentor current students. Celebrity alumni include *Rolling Stone* photographer Mark Seliger, *Grey's Anatomy's* Chandra Wilson, jazz musician and MacArthur Genius Award Winner Jason Moran, Wordpress founder Matt Mullenweg, National Book Award winner Susan Choi, four-time Grammy winner Robert Glasper, and 2010 Texas State Musician Sara Hickman. Still, Kinder HSPVA's success is best exemplified by the sheer number of graduates who are working artists and arts educators. They are among the faculty's proudest accomplishments.

State-of-the-Art Campus

What a time to join the Kinder HSPVA family! In January 2019, a long-awaited dream came true. Located in the center of Houston, along the light rail and situated between the Theater District and Discovery Green, Kinder HSPVA is an active player in the lively rhythm of downtown. Designed and built by global firms Gensler and McCarthy, the campus optimizes the integration of arts and academics. The 168,000-square-foot, five-story campus includes: an 800-seat proscenium theater with balcony and pit lift; a 200-seat black box theater, a 200-seat studio theater, a 150-seat recital hall, art galleries, a recording studio, sound-proof music studios and practice rooms, costume and scene shops, multiple indoor and outdoor common areas, and a school-wide concert-quality A/V system connecting every performance venue and music classroom. The campus is a symbol of Houston's and Kinder HSPVA's values, representing the highest level of public education and the importance of the arts.

Community Resources

The Kinder HSPVA principal is able to count on a robust team of supporters. Together, the following organizations are essential partners, contributing to the extraordinary experience of each student.

HSPVA Friends is the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has cultivated financial support for Kinder HSPVA since 1979 in order to bridge the gap between public school funding and the unique needs of a quality arts education. With offices next door to the Kinder HSPVA campus, HSPVA Friends manages an annual operating budget of approximately \$1 million. The HSPVA Friends staff supports the principal and art areas daily by providing: art area supplies, specialized instruments and equipment, a rotating roster of 100+ teaching artists, production and box office support, summer program and private lesson scholarships, participation in national arts conferences and competitions, capital enhancements, volunteer management, and community outreach.

The Kinder HSPVA PTO is a second 501(c)(3) organization that consists of 100+ parent volunteers working to support academic needs, staff appreciation, schoolwide events such as career fairs and new student registration, and the daily operations of the school store. The Kinder HSPVA PTO also works in tandem with the school's magnet coordinator, improving and implementing outreach efforts to middle-school students across Houston.

The Houston Theater District and professional arts community sees Kinder HSPVA as the city's launchpad for emerging talent. As such, Kinder HSPVA enjoys longstanding partnerships with Houston's premiere cultural institutions, including Houston Grand Opera, Houston Symphony, Society for the Performing Arts, the Alley Theatre, the AFA Summer Music Festival, and Discovery Green as well as the downtown business community. Perhaps the most integrated partnership is with Theatre Under the Stars (TUTS), Houston's acclaimed non-profit musical theatre company, whose Core Teaching Artists deliver Kinder HSPVA's four-year comprehensive musical theatre curriculum.



CURRICULUM: THE PREMIERE ARTS HIGH SCHOOL

Kinder HSPVA is fully accredited and offers the same academic curriculum and graduation requirements as all HISD high schools; the major difference in the academic program is that this school offers the added ingredient of correlating the arts with academics, rather than treating either as isolated disciplines. The arts offered for in-depth study are: Creative Writing, Dance, Instrumental Music, Theatre, Visual Arts, and Vocal Music.



In addition, Kinder HSPVA is committed to its role as a college preparatory school, making students aware of the variety of opportunities they have for future training at colleges or universities, advanced art institutes, and conservatories.

The school schedule is an alternating A/B block schedule with classes meeting for approximately 1.5 hours every other day, with the exception of first period which meets every morning for 45 minutes. Students spend three hours every day in rigorous focused study in one art discipline with the balance of the day's study in academics. All students must audition for placement at Kinder HSPVA and are accepted to a single art area of focus.

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HOUSTON: A GLOBAL CITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Kinder HSPVA benefits from the school's location in the heart of Houston, and the new principal will manage key relationships with the city's leaders, including the Mayor's Office, Central Houston, Inc, the Houston Downtown Management District, and the Greater Houston Partnership.

Houston is the nation's 4th most populous city. It is also one of the most affordable, with a cost of living far below the national average. Houston has one of the youngest, fastest growing, and most diverse populations anywhere in the world. If Houston were an independent nation, the region would have the 27th largest economy in the world.

In downtown Houston alone, more than \$9 billion has been invested since 2005 across broad urban uses: award-winning lush new parks; dynamic, vibrant, fun public spaces; newly built or recently renovated hotels; architecturally stunning residential developments; prime modern office work environments; and a renovated 1.8-million square foot convention center. Downtown Houston is a food- and music-lover's destination, with restaurants and cuisines of all kinds as well as live music and performing arts venues – all supported by expanding regional infrastructure and transit.

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS

Kinder HSPVA's sixth principal should have professional qualifications and personal qualities compatible with the school's unique attributes, traditions, and goals, including a background or experience in the arts. Above all, the principal must be a leader—someone with the ability to inspire others, a belief in the power of teamwork, and a commitment to the benefits of diverse points of view.

The principal will also demonstrate the ability to:

- Promote intellectual and artistic excellence.
- Demonstrate passionate enthusiasm for the transformative power of arts education.
- Lead and implement strategic plans, ensuring that Kinder HSPVA continues to set the national standard for accessible public arts education. Investigate the qualities that universities, conservatories, and the professional arts world are looking for in Kinder HSPVA graduates.
- Collaborate with the art and academic faculty, building on Kinder HSPVA's renowned culture of teachers as leaders and its founding tenet that "education is an adventure in trust."
- Engage in dynamic partnerships with Houston's professional arts community.
- Inspire wide-ranging support from the school's diverse constituents, including HISD trustees and administration, Kinder HSPVA faculty and staff, students, alumni, parents, feeder schools, and partners.
- Overcome obstacles and pivot quickly when faced with the unexpected. Remain optimistic and possess a strong sense of humor.
- Embody the core values of Kinder HSPVA.

TO APPLY

[Click here to view the official job posting and description.](#)

Application deadline: Friday, June 4, 2021

To apply, all candidates must enter the Houston Independent School District's [Leadership Pipeline Pool](#). Campus leadership positions are competitively paid. Salaries are calculated based on years of experience.

Candidates must hold a valid Texas Principal or Mid-Management certification in order to be considered for placement into HISD's campus leadership pools. Candidates who hold an out-of-state Principal certification may find information on how to obtain a Texas certificate through [the TEA website](#).

Candidates are strongly encouraged to notify Edward "Dale" Mitchell, HISD School Support Officer, of their interest in the position as soon as possible. He may be reached at emitch5@houstonisd.org.

LEARN MORE

Experience the Campus

- [Cover story of Houston's *Downtown* magazine, Spring 2019 issue](#)
- [Video introduction to the Kinder HSPVA campus](#)

Get to Know the Art Areas

- [20-21 Dance Curriculum](#)
- [20-21 Creative Writing Curriculum](#)
- [20-21 Vocal Music Curriculum](#)
- [20-21 Instrumental Music Curriculum](#)
- [20-21 Visual Arts Curriculum](#)
- [20-21 Theatre Curriculum](#)

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For more information, contact:

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