POSITION: Principal of St. Andrew Academy / Catholic Academy of Bridgeport  
Begins July 1, 2019

OVERVIEW:
The Board of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport and the Diocese of Bridgeport are seeking a transformational principal to lead, form, advance and nurture our school community on the campus of St. Andrew in Bridgeport, CT. It is part of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, which comprises 900 children on four campuses throughout the city. St. Andrew is a preschool through 8th grade Academy with 250 students, 25 faculty and staff and is fully accredited in 2019 by NEASC. The principal is the educational and spiritual leader of the school community. The highest priority of the principal is to build a Catholic community of faith inspired by gospel values and to provide a superior academic program committed to individualized instruction. Our diverse community is blessed with many different races, ethnicities and religious groups. Each child is supported to achieve academically, develop to his/her full potential, and grow in his or her faith.

St. Andrew is one of four campuses that make up the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport along with Sts. Augustine, Ann and Raphael. St. Andrew Academy is located in the northern section of Bridgeport, in a large park-like area that includes the parish church, playing fields and outside chapel.

The school is diverse in its racial, ethnic and religious composition and welcomes students from the city of Bridgeport and surrounding communities. St. Andrew is blessed with committed staff who enable the majority of their students to score at or above grade level in math and language arts, which is in stark contrast to the Bridgeport public schools where the majority of students score below grade level. There is a strong commitment to blended learning, full integration of Chromebooks and differentiated instruction. Faculty are supported by a strong professional development program led by the principal and in conjunction with the other three campuses that make up the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport. A deep faith in God characterizes the school as its mission statement reads: “The Catholic Academy of Bridgeport provides a Christ-centered, academically rigorous learning environment where cultural diversity is welcomed, Catholic values taught and all faiths celebrated. Students are nurtured, encouraged and challenged in preparation for a successful life of leadership and service.”

The school is financially stable and continually needs to maintain and grow enrollment, engage working parents in the life of the school and celebrate the success of students who place in excellent Catholic or magnet high schools. Ninety-eight percent continue on to college. The tuition is $5,000 and the majority of students qualify for financial aid. A robust financial aid program supports 85% of the students, the majority of whom are below the poverty level. A strong independent Board of Directors is responsible to assure the mission is met and the Academy flourishes.

The budget is balanced due to the generosity of the Board of Directors and other donors. The Board directs the strategic planning of the school, hires the principal and supports the ongoing effort for academic excellence. The Bishop and the Superintendent of Schools work closely with
the Board in assuring the Catholic identity of the school and providing needed support from the Office of the Superintendent.

The candidate for principal should be a person with extensive experience in education, administration and a commitment to provide a loving and positive environment in which a community is nurtured and faith is lived.

REPORTS TO: Board of Directors, Catholic Academy of Bridgeport

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Qualifications of the ideal candidate:

- Leads as a mission-driven, Roman Catholic who articulates a clear vision for the school based on the values and philosophy of Catholic education.

- Collaborates with administrators, clergy and parishes to evangelize and form a faith community of faculty, staff, students and parents, based on the explicit and intentional integration of the teachings of the Church and Gospel values where students are nurtured, thrive and develop to their full potential.

- Provides and assures that the academic program is rigorous, well articulated and integrates best practices of individualized instruction. Commits to the use of technology and blended learning to enhance a variety of teaching/learning styles.

- Emphasizes the importance of transparent communication and a style of leadership which is consultative, engaging and respectful of diverse opinions and attitudes.

- Provides for the hiring of teachers and staff and assists them with regular supervision, professional training and development.

- Works collaboratively with the other three principals, their faculties and the Executive Director of the Academy to assist in the functioning as one school with a common mission and purpose.

- Works assiduously to grow and stabilize enrollment through an active program of recruitment and retention.

- Understands the importance of financial stability by providing a balanced budget in collaboration with the Business Manager and the Board of Directors and is willing to assist in development efforts to increase donations to the Academy through presence at fund- and friend-raising events. Ensures that the school is a safe environment, characterized by loving attitudes towards each other and the extended community

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Practicing Roman Catholic dedicated to an integration of faith, social justice and Gospel values
Masters Degree from an accredited institution with course work in Educational Administration
State certified Elementary Teacher in CT or another state
State certified Administrator in CT or another state, or in progress
At least five (5) years of administration or teaching
Demonstrated success and proven track record of increased student achievement and attention to standardized test results
Ability to manage multiple projects and work collaboratively with various constituents including other campus principals, teachers, the Office of the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Directors
Demonstrated excellence in communication (both oral and written), managerial and organizational skills
Proficiency in the use of technology in all aspects of school life

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:
Professional Spanish—proficient ability to read, write and speak in both languages is desirable
5+ years of successful school leadership
Demonstrated experience in non-public, Catholic or independent school education

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES:
Experience using academic principles and best practices, understanding of current national standards and trends and academic opportunities
An understanding of the mission of the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport
An understanding of and appreciation for the nature and value of a Catholic school education.

Application process:
Interested candidates should complete application on CTReap

Or send application to:
Sr. Joan Magnetti, rscj
Executive Director
Email: srmagnetti@diobpt.org
Regular mail: Catholic Academy of Bridgeport, 63 Pequonnock Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604