

OAKBROOK PREPARATORY SCHOOL SPARTANBURG, SC



INTRODUCTION

Oakbrook Preparatory School is dedicated to fostering a Christ-centered community that nurtures the unique potential of every student from K3 through 12th grade. Oakbrook currently serves 425 students from over 300 families and provides a rigorous, college-preparatory education that embraces the development of the whole child—mind, body, and spirit. Oakbrook sits on a beautiful 66-acre campus on the west side of Spartanburg, in the growing upstate of South Carolina.

Oakbrook was founded by Rosemary Moore in 1992 and was originally called the Village School. Her vision was to create a school with a curriculum influenced by Charlotte Mason that would serve elementary school students. In 2002, the school was renamed Oakbrook Preparatory School. In 2005, six students received Oakbrook high school diplomas. That same year, Mrs. Moore retired and was given the honorary title, Director Emeritus.

Oakbrook celebrates the individuality of each student, encouraging them to explore their passions and talents within a supportive and loving environment. The curriculum is rooted in the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty, guiding students toward academic excellence while equipping them for a life of purposeful leadership and service.

Oakbrook believes every child is wonderfully made in God's image and seeks to graduate students who will lead with integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to making a positive impact on the world. Oakbrook's vision, mission and core values guide its team to be one of the nation's premier preparatory schools.

VISION STATEMENT

Igniting Minds, Nurturing Hearts: Equipping Students to Lead with Purpose and Impact the World

MISSION

Oakbrook Preparatory School is committed to delivering a Christ-centered, inter-denominational, college-preparatory education that nurtures the whole child - mind, body, and spirit.

As a community of scholars, we seek to encourage the unique talents and passions of each student, igniting curiosity and empowering growth in wisdom, character, and purpose. Through a rigorous curriculum rooted in truth, goodness, and beauty, we prepare students not merely for academic success, but for well-balanced lives of meaningful contribution and transformative service. At Oakbrook, we believe every child is wonderfully made in God's image, and we are devoted to cultivating graduates who will lead with gospel intentionality, integrity, and passion, making a lasting impact on the world.

MOTTO

Lignum Crucis Arbor Scientiae
The wood of the cross is the tree
of knowledge





THE OAKBROOK WAY

NURTURING FAITH

Graduates will demonstrate a growing faith, ethical behavior, and the ability to thoughtfully engage with diverse perspectives through a Christian lens.

IGNITING MINDS

Graduates are intellectually curious, capable of critical thinking, and possess strong collaborative skills, ready to innovate and lead in their fields.

INTEGRATING ENRICHMENT

Graduates are multifaceted men and women with a deep appreciation for the arts, physical fitness, and real-world experiences, prepared to excel in all areas of life.

FOSTERING RELATIONSHIPS

Graduates will excel in building and maintaining meaningful relationships, exhibit high emotional intelligence, and are adept at navigating social complexities with empathy and respect.

SHAPING LEADERS

Graduates are confident, service-oriented individuals with practical life skills, capable of making positive, ethical contributions whether leading or following.

ENCOURAGING BALANCE

Graduates manage stress effectively, prioritize well-being and maintain a healthy balance in their personal and professional lives.

CORE VALUES

LIVE FAITHFULLY (MATTHEW 5:16)

ENGAGE WITH GRACE (EPHESIANS 4:32)

PREPARE WITH PURPOSE (Colossians 3:23)

CELEBRATE EVERY CHILD (EPHESIANS 2:10)

PURSUE LIFELONG LEARNING (PROVERBS 1:5)

STATEMENT OF FAITH

As a non-denominational and non-covenant school, students and parents acknowledge the statement of faith and accept that the intention of the school is to integrate faith and learning. In addition to a rigorous learning environment, each student will be introduced to and expected to participate in activities that promote an understanding of Oakbrook's Statement of Faith.

We seek to provide a high-quality education for students in a safe environment of Christian faith and belief, following the truth revealed in the Bible. In all grades and in all subjects taught, we believe God's truth can and should be revealed. We also believe that a Christian worldview is an essential element of a student's education, and we desire each graduate to have the understanding and tools needed to make Christlike decisions in the future.

We believe that God is sovereign and through the Bible as His word to us, he has revealed the truths that we follow and teach. We believe that the Bible has authority, and that it was delivered from God to us without error. It shows us that God has existed forever and is uniquely three persons in one, the Father, his son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. It reveals how mankind was created, how sin came into the world, and how that has negatively affected our relationship with God.

We believe that God sent Jesus Christ to earth to provide the way to restore this relationship. Jesus was fully God and fully man, born of a virgin mother and given the purpose to provide saving grace to us before God. Through Jesus' death on a cross He provided atonement to God for our sins, and through His resurrection. We believe He is the way to salvation and eternal life through the Holy Spirit and God's grace.

We are intentionally non-denominational to focus on these Bible truths over church doctrine, and to build a diverse student and staff community so we all benefit. As a complement to family and church teaching, we want all students to understand the importance of this grace and come together striving to live through faith in God. We want faith, learning and service to inspire students to strive to live, learn, and behave in a way that reflects the values of Oakbrook Preparatory School.





OAKBROOK AT A GLANCE

FOUNDED
1992

ENROLLMENT K3 - 12

HONORS COURSES

S6M

OPERATING
BUDGET

AP PASS RATE

8 1 %

STUDENT DIVERSITY

2 1 %



1 6 AP COURSES

FACULTY WITH ADVANCED DEGREES









THE OAKBROOK WAY

LOWER SCHOOL (PK3-4TH)

Oakbrook's Lower School is a nurturing and encouraging place where students from PK3 through 4th grade are given daily opportunities to create, explore, and observe. Teachers are committed, passionate, and creative. Students thrive in an atmosphere that is multisensory, with a faith-integrated curriculum that is rich and meaningful.

The Lower School builds a strong foundation for future learning in the core subjects and related arts through handson, project-based learning while preparing students for 21st century skills of critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration. In addition to core subjects, students are given opportunities to explore and develop interests in art, music, physical education, technology, and a variety of world languages.

Lower School students also participate in weekly chapel lessons, daily devotions, and weekly Scripture memory.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (5TH-8TH)

Oakbrook's Middle School is a place where each child can flourish within a close-knit community, develop essential life skills, and be well-prepared for the challenges of high school. Oakbrook believes that middle school is not just a transitional phase to "get through," but a critical season of growth in which students strengthen their academic and personal foundations and can thrive.



The Middle School curriculum is academically rigorous, filled with project-based learning led by teachers who are specialists in their field. Students are given opportunities to be creative and collaborative. There is a wide range of athletic and arts offerings available to all students as well as a nurturing environment which allows students to explore their strengths and to discover their interests.

Middle School students participate in weekly chapels and attend Bible classes daily. Teachers encourage students to begin to make their faith their own, and to move beyond just knowing about God toward fully engaging in His kingdom and His story.





School Sc

UPPER SCHOOL (9TH-12TH)

The Upper School challenges students in grades 9-12th grades to stretch themselves academically through a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, to think critically and creatively, and to engage in the school community through participation in many activities. Most importantly, Oakbrook strives to instill a lifelong love of learning within a supportive Christ-centered community.

Several opportunities exist to cultivate Christian faith including weekly chapel services, daily homeroom devotions and prayer, and bi-weekly discipleship groups.

The Upper School boasts 16 AP Course offerings:

- Biology
- Calculus AB
- Chemistry
- Computer Science A
- Computer Science Principles
- English Language
- English Literature
- German Language

- Microeconomics
- Psychology
- Spanish Language
- Statistics
- Studio Art
- US Government & Politics
- US History
- World History

Christian Education courses are required of Upper School students, but they may choose from a variety of options including: Global Faith Explorations, Epic Journey of Redemption, The Letters of Light, A Faith Worth Defending, and Roots of Belief.

Class of 2024 Profile

The Class of 2024 was Oakbrook's 19th graduating class and was comprised of 29 students; 87% matriculated to 4 year colleges and universities, 4% attended 2-year colleges, 2 students elected to take a gap year, and 1 student enlisted in the US Coast Guard. The diversity of the class included 4% Asian, 4% Hispanic/Latino, 14% African American, and 79% Caucasian. The Class of 2024 was offered more than 3 million dollars in scholarships.

College Connect

Students meet with an adviser once each week to determine career interests, speak with college representatives, receive guidance in the college application process, learn of available scholarships, and other activities designed to ensure each student's college success.



Senior Project

Seniors at Oakbrook must complete the Capstone Diploma Program or a Senior Project. The Senior Project is preapproved by an administrative committee and designed to create either a service or a product. Projects demonstrate engagement with such 21st Century Skills as creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, time management, leadership, communication and research. The Senior Project process is as important as the finished product or service. Over the past five years, Senior Projects have included: establishing international mission trips, writing a book, creating events for underserved populations, raising money for orphanages, starting a business, and composing original music.

BRIDGES PROGRAM

Bridges aims to enhance the educational experience for all students in kindergarten through 12th grade to assist students in reaching their full God-given potential and develop a lifelong love of learning. Eligible students who have been diagnosed with a learning disability, processing deficit, or ADD/ADHD are provided a variety of services including support with academics, organization, study skills, standardized testing, time management, and classroom accommodations. Individualized tutoring, including Orton-Gillingham and content area tutoring, is also available in Bridges.





THE ARTS

Beginning in the Lower School, students are exposed to Creative Arts classes that provide opportunities for students to experiment and create in the areas of music, visual art, theatre and dance. As a result of Creative Arts classes, students are better able to choose the areas of art they would like to pursue in the Middle and Upper School elective programs.

Band/Choral Music

All students in preschool through 4th grade participate in Oakbrook's choral music program. Middle and Upper School students who have developed an interest and appreciation for choral music can develop their performance skills through their participation in Chorus.

The band program begins in 5 th grade and continues through 8 th grade.



Visual Art

Beginning in 5th grade, students can choose art as an elective class. Oakbrook's Middle School art classes include an introduction to the elements of art and principles of design as well as modern art, multicultural art and a look into art careers such as graphic design, architecture, automotive engineering, and illustration. Graphic Design is offered as a separate class. The Upper School art program includes such offerings as Sculpture, Drawing, Painting, Women in the Arts, Surface Design, Mixed Media, Book Arts, and The Bible Through Artist's Eyes. AP Studio Art offers highly motivated students an opportunity to stretch their abilities even further.



Dance

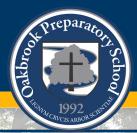
Students from 5th through 12th grades may choose dance as an elective and explore the basic levels of a variety of dance genres including ballet, jazz, modern, and ballroom - culminating in an advanced dance class.

The Advanced Dance class is offered to students by audition and designed to emphasize and refine all main technique areas and master specific dance vocabulary related to the efficient and artful use of the body as an instrument. Advanced Dance is Oakbrook's top performing company and, in the past, has performed at the South Carolina Dancing Festival, conducted outreach events at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind, and held clinics at Oakbrook.

Theatre

Students of various ages can audition for the spring musical each year. Some of the most recent musical performances have included Tarzan, Mary Poppins, The Little Mermaid, Shrek, and The Lion King.





ATHLETICS - KNIGHTS

Oakbrook's successful athletic program is committed to glorifying God by pursuing excellence in all areas. The athletic staff works to develop the entire student-athlete physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. At Oakbrook, athletics is more than competition between teams; it is an educational experience between the coach and the team through practice, competition, and personal relationships. The O Club serves as a highly supportive Booster Club.

SPORTS

Students in 5th grade through 12th grade are encouraged to participate in one or more of Oakbrook's athletic programs:

Baseball
Basketball
Cheerleading
Cross Country
Football
Golf
Soccer
Swimming
Volleyball
Track



CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Oakbrook offers students an opportunity to participate in a variety of extracurricular clubs and organizations. Specific clubs and organizations vary from year to year depending on interest levels. Current and past clubs include:

- Academic Quiz Bowl Team
- Battle of the B Books
- Beta Club

- Book Club
- Chess Club
- Ethics Competition
- Glee Club
- Junior Beta Club
- Math Competitions
- MUSE Machine
- National Hispanic Honor Society
- National Honor Society
- Science Olympiad
- Student Government
- Yearbook (Equites Christi)



FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING

Oakbrook Preparatory School has a \$6M operating budget. The Oakbrook community is generous, and fundraising efforts focus on four main areas: Annual Fund, Capital Campaign, Star Fund (supporting teachers), and an annual gala – Once Upon a Knight.

GOVERNANCE AND ACCREDITATION

The Oakbrook Board of Directors is the governing body of the school. It consists of up to 10 members elected from school families and the community at large for three-year terms. Board members must have an established profession of faith in Jesus Christ and agree to uphold the Oakbrook Statement of Faith.

Oakbrook is accredited by Cognia and the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA). Its next accreditation visit will take place in 2027.





THE OPPORTUNITY

Oakbrook Preparatory School is seeking its next Head of School to begin July 2025. To guide the search for its next Head of School, Oakbrook recently administered a survey. Board members, teachers and staff, parents, and students responded with great enthusiasm and a summary follows:

What do you value most about Oakbrook?

- Development of Christian Faith
- · Committed Teaching Staff
- Academic Excellence
- Small Class Sizes
- Low Student-to-Teacher Ratios
- Safe Learning Environment

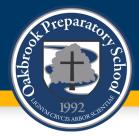
Which should receive the most attention from the next Head of School?

- Faculty Recruitment and Retention
- Strengthening and expanding curriculum offerings to enhance the school's reputation as a preparatory institution.
- Athletic Program Development
- Middle School Retention and Engagement
- Facilities and Infrastructure

Top qualities desired in the next Head of School

- Spiritual Maturity
- Visionary Leadership
- Trustworthiness and Transparency
- Student-Centered Approach
- Wisdom-Driven Decision-Making





STRATEGIC PLAN

Recognizing the incredible opportunities ahead, and the need in this time for decisive and informed planning, the Oakbrook Board has enlisted the help of four independent industry experts to conduct enrollment and tuition feasibility analysis, market conditions, financial sustainability, and reputational dynamics. As these consulting firms complete their work, Oakbrook will benefit from a collaborative braintrust of deep experiences that will inform and influence the long-range Strategic Plan. Oakbrook seeks a Head of School that will help us refine the amazing work our Strategic Team has been doing, help us develop strengths, plug leaks, and give us direction to take our work to the "next level."

Consulting Firms Currently Serving Oakbrook:

- **Creative Independents** Tuition Elasticity Study and Financial Sustainability
- <u>Connor Associates</u> Enrollment Feasibility and Forecasting, Image Audit
- North Star Marketing Marketing Leadership for Healthy Enrollment
- <u>NextEd</u> Head Search, Strategic Planning, Board Effectiveness, Executive Coaching

Oakbrook is investing significantly in wisdom and counsel because they believe God has given them a vision to pursue and become one of the nation's premier Christian college-preparatory schools. They know it will require God's anointing and significant resource generation, but the Board is committed to pursuing the highest and best opportunities for Oakbrook.







EXPECTATIONS

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Head of School will be responsible for leading Oakbrook Preparatory School into its next exciting phase of growth. He or she will have clarity with God's calling to serve Oakbrook in the following ways:

- Exemplify and enthusiastically uphold Oakbrook's mission while protecting and enhancing the school's commitment to Jesus Christ.
- Guide the school into the future while upholding its traditions.
- Serve as the "public face" of the school, informing current and prospective parents about the benefits of its education, and articulating the school's mission and aspirations.
- Serve as a visible and approachable leader who is deeply engaged in school life.
- Promote the effective operations and ongoing progress of Oakbrook by building, leading, and serving strong teams while empowering them.
- Attract, hire, and retain highly qualified teachers, staff, and coaches who support and uphold the school's mission and beliefs.
- Steward the resources of the school through sound business management and planning as well as maintaining prudent oversight and development of facilities.
- Continually refine the school's academic and extracurricular programs, updating pedagogical methods, and integrating new developments in education and technology.
- Play a key role in all fundraising efforts.

CANDIDATE QUALITIES

LEADERSHIP

- Jesus follower and humble spiritual leader with a pastoral heart who courageously affirms Oakbrook's mission.
- Visionary, innovative leader whose imagination, ability to anticipate needs and opportunities, and team-based approach to change advances the school consistent with its mission.

- Skillful leader who optimizes a team's potential through high collaboration and the empowerment of others.
- Relational and visible leader who is approachable, listens well, knows people by name, and has a deep desire to build Christian community.
- Cheerleading leader who loves people and inspires them towards Oakbrook's future.

EXPERIENCE, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

Required

- Master's degree in education, administration, or a related field; advanced degree (e.g., Ph.D., Ed.D.) preferred.
- Minimum of 7-10 years of progressive leadership experience, preferably in a Christian or independent school setting.
- Proven ability to lead and inspire diverse teams, with a focus on collaboration and accountability.
- Experience in strategic planning, financial management, and fundraising.
- Proven educational leader who may already be a Head
 of School or who is aspiring to be one with experience
 in school administration and whose dedication to
 Oakbrook's mission inspires trust, confidence, and
 support from the school community.
- Knowledge and experience with integrating a Christian worldview into all aspects of the preschool-12th grade experience.
- Adept at building and nurturing relationships among all school stakeholders, especially with teachers, staff, and students.
- Exceptional problem-solving skills coupled with strong emotional intelligence and teamwork while still having the ability to be decisive and make difficult decisions.

Preferred

- Classroom teaching experience and deep understanding of best practices in education.
- Background in marketing, enrollment management, or community engagement.
- Demonstrated success in advancing academic programs and fostering a positive school culture.
- Knowledge of and commitment to the Charlotte Mason educational philosophy.





- Mature Christian whose relationship with Jesus Christ results in strong biblical character and integrity.
- Defender of biblical ethics and values demonstrated through spoken and written communication.
- "Educator at heart" who loves students of all ages and has contagious enthusiasm for shepherding the growth of children and adolescents.
- Passionate, invested, cheerleader.
- Self-starter and self-developer who is also teachable and coachable.

THE CHARGE

Spiritual and Cultural Leadership

- Embody and model Christian faith and values, serving as a spiritual leader to the school community.
- Foster a positive school culture that emphasizes respect, integrity, and community.
- Cultivate meaningful relationships with students, families, faculty, and staff to maintain a strong sense of community.







Strategic Leadership

- Develop and execute a clear, visionary strategic plan aligned with Oakbrook's mission, values, and long-term goals.
- Lead with integrity and inspire a culture of excellence, collaboration, and accountability among faculty, staff, students, and families.
- Build trust across the community by fostering open communication and transparent decision-making processes.



Academic and Program Leadership

- Uphold and enhance Oakbrook's reputation for academic excellence and rigor.
- Strengthen and expand curriculum offerings to enhance the school's reputation as a preparatory institution.
- Ensure curricular alignment with the Charlotte Mason philosophy while fostering innovation in STEM, arts, and life-skills programming.
- Promote faculty development through professional learning opportunities, mentorship, and consistent evaluation processes.

Operational and Financial Leadership

- Oversee efficient budget management and resource allocation to address financial challenges and ensure long-term sustainability.
- Develop and execute effective fundraising strategies, building relationships with donors, alumni, and other stakeholders.
- Collaborate with the Board of Directors to define and achieve measurable financial and operational goals.

Community and External Engagement

- Act as the public face of the school, enhancing its visibility and reputation within the community and beyond.
- Build partnerships with local businesses, churches, and organizations to support the school's mission and growth.
- Serve as an advocate for the school in interactions with prospective families, donors, and community leaders.



ABOUT SPARTANBURG

The Greater Spartanburg area is situated in the vibrant Upstate region of South Carolina, strategically positioned at the crossroads of major interstates and within easy reach of diverse destinations. Located at the intersection of I-85 and I-26, Spartanburg serves as a strategic halfway point between Atlanta and Charlotte, offering exceptional accessibility to the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Atlantic Ocean while maintaining a distinctive small-town charm.

Recognized as one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States, Spartanburg is home to several prestigious higher education institutions, including Wofford College, Converse University, and the University of South Carolina Upstate. These schools contribute to the community's rich intellectual and cultural landscape, attracting international businesses and highly educated individuals.



PLACES TO VISIT IN SPARTANBURG



BMW ZENTRUM



HATCHER GARDEN



CROFT STATE PARK



As a hub of Southern hospitality, the city has been recognized as South Carolina's second Downtown Cultural District, featuring public art on nearly every corner and a downtown that seamlessly combines historical charm with contemporary vibrancy. With a population of approximately 40,000 residents, Spartanburg offers a diverse and welcoming community that celebrates its multicultural heritage.

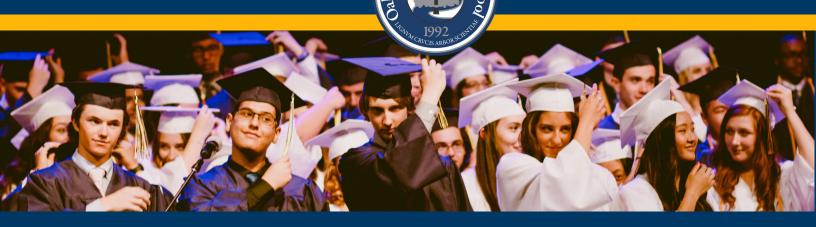
The city boasts a remarkably affordable lifestyle, with housing costs approximately 20% less than the U.S. average, making it an attractive destination for professionals and families. Its favorable climate of mild winters and warm summers enables year-round outdoor activities, from cycling around town to exploring local farmers markets and festivals.

Spartanburg's thriving culinary scene and pet-friendly atmosphere reflect its vibrant community spirit. Locals enjoy dining at local restaurants and breweries, with many establishments welcoming four-legged companions on their patios. Within a half-day's drive of major cities like Atlanta, Charleston, and Nashville, Spartanburg serves as a strategic gateway to the Southeast's most exciting destinations while preserving its unique Upstate South Carolina character.



SPARTANBURG ART MUSEUM





SEARCH PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The Oakbrook Preparatory School search is underway to appoint a new Head of School who will begin on July 1, 2025. Should the school not have ample time to secure its next Head of School by this date, the school will continue with an Interim Head of School and seek to have its next Head of School begin later. Oakbrook has appointed a Search Committee and has engaged NextEd to provide support. Compensation will be competitive with comparable private schools in the area.

All candidates will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and discretion. Interested candidates should apply online through **NextEd's website**. The online application will include specific personal information and the following required uploaded documents:

- Interest cover letter
- Resume
- Statement of personal Christian faith

Candidates who are invited to continue in the process as semifinalists will have a second round of data collection to include at least five references and other information deemed important to the search. Semifinalists will also participate in a recorded video interview with NextEd consultants.

NextEd will continue the recruitment process until a candidate has been selected by the Search Committee, but given this highly desirous opportunity, we anticipate the following timeline:

APPLICATION DEADLINE

JANUARY 31, 2025

though candidates will be considered and processed immediately upon discretion of NextEd and the Search Committee

SEMI-FINALIST INTERVIEWS

LATE FEBRUARY/MARCH 2025

FINALIST VISITS

MARCH 2025

APPOINTMENT

JULY 2025

COMMUNICATION

Please direct all inquiries and nominations in confidence to:

> Kurt Unruh, NextEd Partner Search Consultant 303.319.3335 kurt@next-ed.com

Steve O'Neil, NextEd Partner Search Consultant 970.977.4585 steve@next-ed.com

CLICK HERE TO APPLY

