



Head of School

Sarasota Christian School
Sarasota, FL

INTRODUCTION

Founded in 1958 by a group of parents with a vision to offer a true Christian education option in Sarasota. Sarasota Christian School (SCS) has grown from fifteen students into a Pre-K through 12th grade community of more than 830 students drawn from over 120 area churches. Ask almost anyone in the SCS community what makes the school special, and the answer comes back the same way, again and again: Christ. Families describe a place where their children are known by name, where founding families still walk the halls alongside families who arrived last year, and where alumni return years later to enroll children of their own. Rooted in its Anabaptist heritage and still true to the conviction that started it all, SCS lives out its mission to equip students with a love for Christ, a passion to learn, the courage to lead, and a commitment to serve.

Sarasota Christian School is now searching for its next Head of School to carry that mission into its next chapter. Reporting to the Board of Directors, which operates under the spiritual oversight of the pastors of SCS's four member churches, the incoming Head of School will join a school in a position of genuine strength — stable, deeply loved by its community, and clear about the priorities that matter most for what comes next.. The position is expected to begin in June 2027, offering the selected candidate time to transition thoughtfully and arrive ready to lead from day one.

Mission

The mission of Sarasota Christian School is to equip students with a love for Christ, a passion to learn, the courage to lead, and a commitment to serve.

Love for Christ

- Daily prayer and devotions
- Weekly Chapel
- Biblically infused curriculum
- Spiritual Emphasis Days
- High School Retreat

Courage to Lead

- Student Council
- National Honor Society
- Yearbook
- Athletics

Passion to Learn

- Honors and AP offerings
- Dual Enrollment courses
- AP Capstone and Blazer Honors Diplomas
- FACCS Spelling Bee
- National History Day

Commitment to Serve

- Worship Team
- Disaster Relief
- Food Drive
- Operation Christmas Child
- 150 service hours graduation requirement

SARASOTA CHRISTIAN AT A GLANCE

Founded:

1958

Enrollment (Pre-K-12):

830+

Faculty and Staff:

100

Student:Teacher Ratio:

1:18

Campus:

24.5 Acres

Faculty and Staff who are Christians:

100%

HS Faculty w/advanced degrees:

83%

Community service hours (annually):

4400+

ACADEMICS

At Sarasota Christian School, academics and faith are never separated. Students encounter a comprehensive, academically rigorous, and distinctly Christian education from Pre-K through 12th grade, with a curriculum designed to challenge them academically while developing a biblical worldview that shapes how they understand and engage with the world around them. This approach reflects the school's commitment to preparing students not only for college and career success, but also to live as confident, self-directed learners who are equipped to impact the world for Christ.

STUDENT LIFE

Life at SCS extends well beyond the classroom. Students grow into well-rounded individuals through a wide range of on- and off-campus opportunities, including:

- Chapel
- Athletics
- Fine and Performing Arts
- Clubs
- Service projects
- Student Government
- Middle School Mixers
- High School Homecoming and Prom
- High School Retreat
- 8th Grade Trip
- National Honor Society
- National Junior Honor Society

GOVERNANCE AND ACCREDITATION

SCS operates under two governing components: a Board of Directors (up to twelve members) and the pastors of its four member churches — Bethel Mennonite, Sarasota Community, Bayshore, and Abundant Life. The Board hires and evaluates the Head of School and sets policy; the member-church pastors meet monthly with the Head of School and reserve approval authority over governing rules, membership, the Statement of Faith, and Board composition.

To ensure that the highest quality of education is maintained, faculty and administration regularly evaluate the total program from Pre-K through 12th grade. The Florida Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (FACCS) affirm this evaluation. Sarasota Christian School is fully accredited by FACCS.

FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING

As an independent school, SCS relies entirely on tuition and the generosity of current and past parents, grandparents, alumni, faculty, and community friends. The school offers a grade-based tuition schedule and offers tuition assistance for qualifying families, helping SCS remain accessible to a broad range of families. The SCS Blazer Fund, the school's Annual Giving Program, supports enrichment opportunities beyond what tuition alone can cover, and gifts to the school's five endowment funds provide a growing base of permanent financial resources. SCS is also currently running a capital campaign in support of its High School Building Project, which recently completed its first phase and welcomed its inaugural students this fall. SCS recently completed phase one of a new high school building with phase two of construction beginning this fall, which will include more classrooms and new administrative offices. This marks a significant investment in the campus, the students, and future families of Sarasota Christian School.



FINE ARTS

The Fine Arts program at Sarasota Christian School provides students with meaningful opportunities to discover, develop, and share their God-given gifts and creativity. Through visual arts, choir, strings, band, drama, and other performing arts opportunities, students are encouraged to develop confidence, discipline, creativity, and an appreciation for excellence. Students take the stage and the gallery throughout the year, participating in concerts, productions, performances, competitions, and other community events. These experiences foster perseverance, teamwork, self-expression, and a willingness to take appropriate risks in pursuit of excellence, reflecting the school's broader commitment to educating the whole student.

ATHLETICS

Athletics at Sarasota Christian School is an integral part of the school's commitment to developing the whole student. The athletic program provides students with opportunities to compete, develop physical skills, build meaningful relationships, and learn important lessons, first and foremost about living a Christ-like life, but also about teamwork, discipline, perseverance, leadership, and character. SCS Athletics competes as a member of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) and the Sunshine State Athletic Association (SSAA). SCS offers a broad range of athletic opportunities across its middle and high school programs, including:

Athletic Offerings

Baseball & Softball
Basketball
Beach Volleyball
Cheerleading
Cross Country
Esports
Flag Football
Football
Golf
Soccer
Swimming
Tennis
Track & Field
Volleyball



THE OPPORTUNITY

Sarasota Christian School arrives at this search from a position of genuine strength, built over recent years under the leadership of Head of School Joseph Stokes. Parents and staff consistently describe Joe as a steady, visible, servant-hearted presence, the kind of leader who is known by name, present at nearly every event, and trusted without reservation, and much of the stability and warmth that defines SCS today carries his fingerprints. After more than 50 years in education, Joe has announced his retirement, and while the SCS community is deeply grateful for his legacy, there is genuine excitement about welcoming its next Head of School to build on the foundation he leaves behind.

Reporting directly to the Board of Directors, the Head of School serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Sarasota Christian School, responsible to advance and implement the school's mission. The Head of School serves as the school's chief spokesperson, represents SCS to its many constituencies and leads the faculty and administrative team with full personnel authority. The Head of School also maintains a strong connection with the pastors of SCS's four member churches who provide spiritual oversight.

DIRECT REPORTS

Direct reports (subject to change) include the Asst. to the Head of School, Three Division Principals, Chief Financial Officer, Events Manager / Capital Campaign, Athletic Director, Director for Admissions, Director of Communications & Marketing, Director of Security & Safety.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Governance & Board** — Serve as the Board's chief representative; recommend policy and implement Board decisions; prepare monthly reports and board meeting agenda; participate on board committees as ex officio member; present an annual State of the School report and budget.
- **Spiritual & Academic Leadership** — Ensure teaching and school life reflect SCS's mission and Christian identity; serve as instructional leader; oversee curriculum coordination and the accreditation process.
- **People & Culture** — Supervise and evaluate the Administrative Team; oversee faculty and staff hiring, contracts, and performance evaluation; ensure appropriate orientation and professional development for all employees.



- **Financial & Operations** — Administer the Board-approved annual budget; oversee fundraising activity including the school's Annual Auction; ensure sound stewardship of school property and facilities.
- **Community & Advancement** — Communicate the SCS vision to all stakeholders; maintain relationships with the four member churches, other congregations, and the broader community; oversee major fundraising initiatives, donor stewardship, and alumni engagement.

QUALIFICATIONS

Spiritual and Character

- A genuine, active relationship with Christ; full alignment with the SCS Statement of Faith and faithful membership in a like-minded local church.
- Biblical fluency to integrate Scripture and a Christian worldview into curriculum, coaching, and daily school life.
- Character and courage that hold up under pressure; spiritual convictions weighed as heavily as credentials.
- Exercise executive authority with confidence and decisiveness while remaining accountable to established Board and pastoral oversight.

Leadership and Relational Qualities

- Present and relationally engaged; known by name and genuinely energized by daily life with students, families, and staff.
- Trustworthy and transparent; proactively communicates with the Board and member church pastors.
- Empowers and holds the team accountable to high standards, while remaining an encourager who builds trust and unity.
- Wisdom-driven and visionary; grounded in biblical truth, able to help the Board move from stabilization into long-range planning.

Professional Experience and Track Record

- A Master's degree or higher in education or a related field; executive leadership experience as a Head of School or comparable senior role, with classroom or direct student experience preferred.
- A demonstrated record of building strong school culture and successfully recruiting, developing, and retaining faculty and staff.
- Academic program leadership with a track record of strengthening rigor for college and career readiness.
- Financial management and fundraising experience, including responsibly stewarding debt, capital projects, and donor relationships.
- Enrollment management suited to a maturing, selective posture, paired with strong relationship-building across families, alumni, and supporting churches.

Practical Fit

- Able to deliver a distinctive, full-scope, Christ-centered educational journey from PreK-12, all on one campus.
- Available for a June 2027 start.

THE CHARGE

The next Head of School will step into a school with real momentum and a community that knows what it values. The following priorities represent the Board's charge to the next Head of School — the areas where focused leadership will matter most in the years ahead.



Hold the Line on Theological Identity

Guard against theological drift as a matter of personal conviction, not only policy compliance. Be able to state and live, without hedging, that the difference at SCS is Christ, and be ready to defend that conviction if pressure ever comes to soften it, while engaging directly with the pastors of SCS's four member churches on issues of biblical integrity and Christian worldview.



Be Present, Be Known, and Build an Encouraging Culture

Walk the halls, learn names, and stay visible to students, families, staff, and administrative leaders, not just the Board. Lead as an encourager who builds people up, consistent with the core values and service culture our families describe as “SCS at its best.”



Empower the Team and Strengthen Faculty & Staff Retention

Lead by empowering the strong principal team and staff already in place, and continue to recruit, hire, and train exceptional faculty and staff.



Lead Up: Partner effectively with the Board and Member Church Pastors

Work to forge deep relationships with Board members and the member church pastors, communicating proactively and escalating the right things at the right time. Make clear recommendations, and accept Board and pastoral decisions.



Sharpen Academic Rigor for College and Career Readiness

Preserve our Christ-centered curriculum while advancing academic rigor and exercising discernment in the use of technology and conventional academic benchmarks.



Strengthen Athletics, the Arts, and Extracurricular Life

Build on SCS's recent momentum in athletics and fine arts to further round out a well-rounded student experience across every division.



Turn Momentum into a Ten-Year Vision

Help the Board move from a stabilization posture into deliberate long-range planning across facilities, staffing, and beyond, managing enrollment toward selectivity and quality as the campus nears its practical capacity. Provide disciplined financial stewardship, retire the construction loan, and protect long-term tuition affordability.



Steward the Whole Family, Every Grade

Strengthen the full Pre-K through 12 pipeline so families stay engaged from PreK through graduation, honoring the school's Anabaptist heritage and founding as a Christian school in the community.

THE SEARCH

The Sarasota Christian School search is underway to appoint a Head of School who will begin duties in June 2027. SCS has appointed a Search Committee and has engaged NextEd to provide support. Compensation will be competitive with comparable 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 Christian faith

Candidates who are invited to continue in the process as semifinalists will have a second round of data collection to include references and other information deemed important to the search. Semifinalists will also participate in a one-way video recording specific to the role. The SCS Search Committee will interview semifinalists and make recommendations to the Board. Finalists will complete an additional round of interviews, a campus visit and meet directly with the member church pastors.

Search Process & Timeline

Application Deadline — October 15, 2026
Semifinalist Interviews — October–November 2026
Finalist Visits — December 2026
Appointment — Targeted before the close of 2026



**PLEASE DIRECT ALL INQUIRIES
AND NOMINATIONS IN
CONFIDENCE TO:**

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[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)