

Head of School Candidate Packet



To begin the 2026-2027 school year
To apply, contact Lizzie Benzer at
apply@sillimaninstitute.org or 225-247-5727



Silliman Institute seeks a Christ-centered, forward-thinking Head of School to lead with conviction, build strong relationships, and guide the school into its next season of growth.



For more than 50 years, Silliman Institute has served families in East Feliciana Parish and the surrounding region with a simple but powerful commitment: to educate students in truth, excellence, and Christian character.

Silliman is more than a school. It is a close-knit, multi-generational community where families invest deeply, teachers know students personally, and faith is woven into daily life – not added as an afterthought.

Our next Head of School will steward this legacy while leading Silliman boldly into its next season of growth.

Silliman Institute is rooted in faith, grounded in tradition, and looking towards the future.

We are a Christ-centered, college-preparatory school serving Pre-K through 12th grade. We seek to develop students who are academically prepared, spiritually grounded, and equipped to lead with integrity in their communities and beyond.



Silliman Institute does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability in admissions to, or treatment in, its programs and activities.

Silliman Institute embraces its responsibility as educators, spiritual leaders, and role models with purpose and integrity. The school is committed to creating a nurturing environment in which every student feels valued, accepted, and appropriately challenged. Our mission is to prepare students who are both academically and spiritually grounded—graduates who leave Silliman are equipped to serve as productive, principled citizens and to positively impact their communities, their state, and the world.

HEAD OF SCHOOL POSITION

LEADERSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Silliman Institute seeks a dynamic, forward thinking Head of School who will serve as a visionary leader, a trusted presence within the school and broader community, and a strategic executive. This individual will build upon Silliman's strong foundation while guiding the school toward continued growth and long term excellence. The ideal candidate will be an experienced, Christ-centered leader who inspires faculty, staff, students, and families, fosters innovation, and leads with both humility and confidence.

The Head of School serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Silliman Institute and reports directly to the Board of Directors. This leader is responsible for setting and advancing the long term vision and strategic direction of the school while supporting and empowering faculty and staff to deliver an excellent, Christ-centered educational experience. The Head of School is expected to lead with clarity, integrity, and purpose—serving as the primary representative of the school, a cultivator of leadership and talent, and a faithful steward of Silliman's mission and values.



PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Proven leadership experience in an educational setting, ideally as Head of School, Associate Head, or division leader at an independent or private school.

- Demonstrated success in organizational strategy, staff supervision, and operational oversight.
- Strong background in curriculum leadership, faculty development, and instructional excellence.
- Experience with fundraising and community engagement, including major gifts and donor cultivation.
- Master's degree or higher in education, administration, or a related field.

LEADERSHIP STYLE & CORE COMPETENCIES

- **Visionary & Strategic:** Able to communicate and execute a compelling vision for the school's future and translate long-term goals into actionable strategies.
- **CEO Mindset:** Leads as a builder of teams, ensuring the right people are in the right roles and empowering others to handle day-to-day management.
- **Talent Developer:** Committed to faculty growth and retention through mentorship, recognition, and professional growth opportunities.
- **Decisive & Innovative:** Makes sound, timely decisions while seeking creative solutions and embracing continuous improvement.
- **Community Ambassador:** Maintains a visible, warm, and consistent presence at school events, in the wider community, and on digital platforms such as social media.

CULTURAL & VALUES ALIGNMENT

- Forward-thinking and proactive, leading with an eye toward what's next, not just what's now.
- Grounded in Christ, someone who sees Silliman Institute as a place to grow and make a lasting impact.
- Mission aligned, upholding the school's values in all decision-making and representing the school with integrity and enthusiasm.
- Relationally intelligent, fostering trust among parents, students, faculty, alumni, and donors.
- Respected and respectful, modeling high character and professionalism in every interaction.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Master's degree required; advanced degree in education, administration, or a related field preferred.
- Valid MAIS certification to serve as Head of School, or eligibility for MAIS certification with a defined timeline for completion.
- Minimum of five (5) years of administrative leadership experience in a primary or secondary educational setting.
- Demonstrated ability to supervise faculty and staff, manage operations, and uphold accreditation standards.
- Strong financial management skills, including budgeting, resource planning, and fundraising.
- Demonstrated ability to build relationships with a wide range of stakeholders, including faculty, staff, parents, donors, and community members.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- High moral character, professional integrity, and a personal commitment to Christian faith and values.

WHY CHOOSE SILLIMAN?

Silliman Basics

- Pre-K through 12th Grade
- Christian-based, College Prep Curriculum
- Bi-Monthly Chapel for K5 through the 12th Grade
- 7 Dual Enrollment Course Options
- 13.3 Student-Teacher Ratio
- Average Class Size: 18 students

ACT SCORES

In the last four senior classes:

- 12 students with a 30+ on the ACT
- Average ACT: 21.8
- Top 20% ACT Average 27.9
- 87.5% of students qualify for TOPS

Athletic Teams

- 10 Varsity and Junior Varsity sports
- Cheer, Football, and Basketball for Middle and Elementary

Extracurriculars

- 4-H, Student Government, National Honor Society, Campus Ministries

Silliman's foundation is strong.
Our enrollment is steady.
Our community is loyal.
Our mission is clear.

The next Head of School will have the opportunity to strengthen academic distinction, expand community partnerships, and position Silliman Institute for enduring excellence for decades to come.

