



# THE ATHENIAN SCHOOL

*Director of the Carter Innovation Studio*

## SUMMARY

**Location** | Danville, CA

**Post Date** | February 14, 2019

**Application Deadline** | March 11, 2019

**Decision Announced** | End of March

**Start Date** | July 1, 2019, or earlier by mutual agreement

**Reports To** | Director of Teaching and Learning





## SUMMARY

Innovation is at the doorstep of The Athenian School—or perhaps more accurately, at the base of Mt. Diablo. Athenian is a school where virtually every part of its 75-acre campus near the beautiful San Francisco East Bay hills is a space for discovery and experimentation. But what makes Athenian truly unique is the role of the student in the learning process. Students don't just own their learning, they live it—whether spending three months building an airplane or spending three weeks camping in the wilderness.

The Carter Innovation Studio (CIS) is part of the newest learning commons on campus, having just opened in fall 2018. This 5,200 square foot design lab features a shop area with metal and woodworking tools, an industrial arts area, a computer/CADD/3-D printer space, and three classrooms. Its central location at the heart of Athenian's campus is no accident. Athenian wants the CIS to be a hub of experiential learning activity for both middle and high school students. To lead this exciting initiative, Athenian seeks an inaugural director of the Carter Innovation Studio well versed in design, engineering, fabrication, and computational thinking. This position reports to the director of teaching and learning and begins on July 1, 2019—or earlier by mutual agreement.

## THREE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AT ATHENIAN

### 1. PROGRAM

Athenian will lead the school world in creating the next generation of the rigorous project-based, experiential, and interdisciplinary curriculum to deliver the knowledge and skills that our students need to succeed in an information economy, and to make a meaningful contribution in the world.

### 2. COMMUNITY

Athenian will continue to develop, promote, and sustain an inclusive school community in which all students, parents, faculty, alumni, and staff can be their authentic selves and thrive, academically, physically, and emotionally. And we take collective responsibility to provide meaningful support to other communities—both local and global.

### 3. RESOURCES

Athenian will position its organizational assets to enable the school to achieve the strategic visions for Program and Community well into the future.



## ABOUT THE CARTER INNOVATION STUDIO

When it comes to design and engineering centers, at some schools the mantra is: build it, and they will (hopefully) come. At Athenian, the mantra is: we have come to build.



For years, Athenian students constructed airplanes in an old hanger. For almost as long, robotics teams prepared for competitions in a tucked-away corner of the campus. Programs like robotics and the airplane project—along with many others—have until recently relied on less-than-ideal facilities. Yet, because collaboration, innovation, and design are cornerstones of the Athenian teaching and learning program, Athenian students and faculty have never let facilities challenges stand in the way of their true passions for hands-on, experiential learning. As a result, Athenian is a school that has launched two airplanes into flight and boasts a robotics team with over 50 highly engaged students.

But now, with the opening of the Carter Innovation Studio (CIS) in fall 2018, an exciting new chapter has just begun. The CIS is a 5,200 square foot crown jewel that is more than just a STEAM innovation center. The CIS is a hub for fabrication, design, engineering, shop, and computational thinking. The CIS was designed not only to support its own classes, but also to invite existing classes to leverage and incorporate design and engineering principles into more traditional disciplines. The director of the CIS will be at the center of all this activity, charged with overseeing a state-of-the-art facility and expanding a program that is year-after-year growing in demand.



## CLASSES IN THE CARTER INNOVATION STUDIO

**Art of Science and Making**

**Engineering I & II**

**Entrepreneurship II & III**

**Architectural**

**Airplane building**

**Algorithms**

**Computer Science**

**Introduction to Programming**

**Applied Science & Engineering**

**Robotics**



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Athenian School prepares students for the rigorous expectations of college and for a life of purpose and personal fulfillment.

We offer a challenging academic program with a difference: intellectual inquiry is active, learning is interactive, the disciplines are interrelated, and analysis and creativity thrive simultaneously. The acquisition of knowledge becomes authentic and joyous.

We cultivate the personal qualities of each student to become an integrated human being with integrity, strong moral character, aesthetic sensitivity, and physical well being. The Athenian community requires students to face life directly through open communication, while developing their inner strength to exceed their perceived potential and emerge compassionate, responsible adults.

We instill an appreciation of the reciprocal relationship between the individual and cultures, society and the natural world. We value the power and beauty of multiculturalism within our diverse community. We embrace the principles of democratic governance, stewardship of the environment, respect for human dignity, and service as a way of life.

By providing an atmosphere of intellectual, artistic, and physical challenge within the warmth of a nurturing community, we develop in our students the confidence and skills required to meet the complexities of their future.



## ROUND SQUARE

**As a founding member of Round Square, an international network of more than 100 schools on six continents, Athenian embraces the philosophy that binds the schools. This philosophy is rooted in six main pillars: Democracy in Action, Adventure, Environmental Awareness, Service, Leadership, and International and Multicultural Understanding.**

**These values are embedded in everything that Athenian does. Students have countless opportunities to experience and explore these themes. Through the Round Square membership, students have unmatched opportunities to go on exchanges, service trips, and international conferences through sister Round Square schools.**



# UNIQUELY ATHENIAN

## 1. THE ATHENIAN WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE (UPPER SCHOOL)

At The Athenian School, we develop resilience and empathy in our students. These attitudes and skills are critical for their success in life. During the Athenian Wilderness Experience (AWE), students explore the beauty and enchantment of either the High Sierra mountains or the Death Valley desert during their junior year. Students learn to collaborate, problem-solve, empathize, and believe in each other as they navigate off-trail terrain, cook group meals, rock climb, and set up camp during a 26-day remote adventure of a lifetime.



## 2. MARCH TERM (UPPER SCHOOL)

This spring Athenian students will participate in the inaugural March Term. In these three-week mini-classes, students will dive deeply into a variety of immersive experiences, including: The Practice of Poetry, Exercise Science, Filmmaking for Change, Marine Biology, and California Water and Landscape Photography.

## 3. FOCUS DAYS (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

To allow for richer and deeper hands-on experiences that take longer than a class period, the Middle School breaks from its daily schedule every Friday for daylong activities that bring together elements from all classes. Middle School faculty have the unique opportunity to collaborate outside their class and department to create meaningful, interconnected experiences for students. Focus Days are one of the hallmarks of Athenian's Middle School experience.





#### 4. CLASS TRIPS (MIDDLE SCHOOL)

Faculty-led adventures each spring offer 3-8 day experiences with middle school classmates. Sixth graders spend three days bonding as a class in Pinnacles National Monument. Camping, rock climbing, basic orienteering, camp cooking and cleaning, group skits and games provide a great vehicle for students to gain some independence and develop class cohesion. Seventh graders can choose from regional trips that emphasize service and outdoor adventure. Eighth graders see U.S. history and English curriculum come to life with a trip to Washington, D.C. This trip allows students to experience the life and times of the founding of our country through a thorough exploration of the nation's capitol.

#### 5. "SPIRIT OF ATHENIAN" AIRPLANE PROJECT (UPPER AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS)

The first student-built airplane, a Piper Cub, took to the skies on Saturday, November 19, 2005 at the Buchanan Field Airport in Concord. The project began in March 2003 after Marshall Freeman, aviation enthusiast and Diablo resident, approached Athenian with a novel idea. He would fund and provide instruction to Athenian students to give them the rare learning experience of building something complex and of undoubted significance — their own airplane. Marsh has led the Airplane Project with assistance from adult technical



experts and close support from Bruce Hamren, an Upper School science teacher at Athenian.

Eighty-eight Middle and Upper School students contributed to building the two-seat Piper Cub-style airplane. Students worked after school in what was then called "The Maker's Studio" to construct the 22-foot-long plane, which has a 36-foot wingspan. They did wood and metal working, put in the controls and even disassembled the used 135-horsepower engine before it was professionally rebuilt. The plane holds two 12-gallon gas tanks and flies at approximately 100 mph. The plane passed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspection, completing 25 more solo hours of flight before it could carry passengers.

The second airplane, The Christen Eagle 2, took 5 years to build and was sold in the spring of 2012.



# OUTCOMES OF AN ATHENIAN EDUCATION

Graduates of The Athenian School will become...

**Learners**, who find joy in the acquisition and application of knowledge to practical challenges and develop skills in critical thinking, physical and social-emotional wellness, communication, and project mastery;

**Thinkers**, who acquire a wide breadth of knowledge in the arts, humanities, language, mathematics, and sciences through a rigorous and innovative curriculum;

**Creative problem solvers**, who take responsible risks and engage in interdisciplinary and experiential learning, design thinking, computational thinking, and making;

**Collaborators**, who listen, reflect, and express themselves in a variety of modes with purpose, clarity, and excellence; and

**Community builder and global citizens**, who act in service to others with empathy, honesty, and integrity.





## KEY STATISTICS

**Founded:** 1965

**Location:** Athenian's 75-acre campus of rolling, oak-covered hills lies at the base of Mt. Diablo State Park in Danville, CA just 32 miles east of San Francisco.

**Students:** Approximately 530 students attend Athenian in grades 6 through 12 (175 students in middle school; 355 students in high school), including nearly 60 upper school boarding students coming from 18 countries on five continents. 100% of the class of 2018 gained admission to four-year colleges.

**Admission:** An acceptance rate of 48% and a yield of 89%

**Accreditation:** California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS); Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

**Diversity:** Nearly 50% of students come from self-identified families of color. Over 30% of faculty are people of color.

**Relevant Associations:** National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS); California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS); California Teacher Development Collaborative (CATDC); Council for Advancement and Support of Educations (CASE); Round Square (RS); Green Schools Alliance (GSA); Bay Area Green Business Program; Bay Area BlendEd Consortium

**Operating budget:** \$17,000,000

**Financial aid and scholarships:** 22% of the student body receives financial aid totaling \$3.2 million

**Endowment:** Approximately \$10,000,000

**Website:** [www.athenian.org](http://www.athenian.org)



## EQUITY AND INCLUSION AT ATHENIAN

*"From my time as Dean of Equity and Inclusion to my transition as Director of Teaching and Learning, Athenian has clearly grown to believe that equity, inclusion, and cultural competency and fluency are not special interests, but are ideas so integral to our learning outcomes that they are woven throughout our curriculum, creating the scaffolding essential for students to express their global citizenship as true multicultural community builders by the time they graduate."*

Kalyan Balaven, Director of Teaching and Learning





# DIRECTOR OF THE CARTER INNOVATION STUDIO

## SPECIFIC DUTIES

### Curricular work

- Promote, oversee, and support all experiential learning in the CIS
- With guidance from the director of teaching and learning and the division heads, develop and deliver learning opportunities that invite traditional classes to the CIS
- Design and deliver faculty trainings, and serve as a faculty coach and mentor in the areas of design and fabrication
- Teach a class in the field of design, fabrication, engineering, computational thinking, computer science, or applied science
- Serve on the Curriculum Think Tank, which is led by the director of teaching and learning and includes department chairs and program directors

### Non-curricular work

- Supervise the CIS staff, which includes a part-time shop manager
- Maintain ultimate responsibility for all operations of the CIS, including equipment maintenance, supply ordering, budgets, capital purchases, safety procedures, room scheduling, and volunteer coordination
- Maintain an active presence in the local, regional, and national communities of design, engineering, and fabrication
- Develop partnerships with external organizations to both support the mission of the CIS and provide additional learning opportunities for students
- Serve in a public-facing capacity to represent the CIS to external visitors
- Other duties as assigned





## **ATHENIAN IS LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES WHO CAN DEMONSTRATE...**

### **Professional Qualifications:**

- Multiple years of experience as a classroom teacher in areas such as design, engineering, fabrication, computer science, or computational thinking
- Experience overseeing or supporting the operations of a shop environment or fabrication lab
- Experience planning curriculum and developing student learning outcomes for design and engineering, in partnership with teachers of other disciplines
- Experience leading workshops, trainings, and projects to faculty, preferably for both middle and high school teachers
- Immersion in diversity work—both in training and in implementation—and a commitment to fostering culturally competent and inclusive classrooms
- A track record of establishing successful partnerships with faculty
- Experience designing and implementing project-based and experiential learning
- Possession of a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, which is a minimum requirement, though a graduate degree is highly desirable

### **Leadership and Personal Qualities:**

- Inspirational, pragmatic, diplomatic, and patient leadership
- Authentic empathy, warmth, and collegiality
- Confidence and humility, together with a sense of humor and warm personality
- Savvy communication and presentation skills
- A collaborative, cooperative, and growth-oriented mindset
- Enthusiasm for students to pursue their passions, talents, and interests, both in and out of the traditional classroom
- A vision that is aligned with the needs of a dynamic and diverse faculty and staff
- A passion for building community and facilitating adult learning





## HOW TO APPLY

12M Recruiting is acting on behalf of The Athenian School to identify exceptional education professionals with a background in design, engineering, and fabrication to fill this extraordinary opportunity. Please direct any inquiries to:

Gabriel Lucas  
Principal, 12M Recruiting  
[jobs@12MRecruiting.com](mailto:jobs@12MRecruiting.com)

### APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED THROUGH MARCH 11, 2019.

All applications must be submitted online, via:

[www.12MRecruiting.com/jobs/athenian](http://www.12MRecruiting.com/jobs/athenian)

Required application materials:

- Cover letter introducing yourself to The Athenian School search committee
- CV or résumé
- A list of four references (include each person's name, organization, title, phone number, email, and connection to you—though we will not contact any references without obtaining your permission first)
- Statement of educational philosophy that addresses the following prompt:

*Under your leadership, what could be the school's next "Uniquely Athenian" project, and how would you bring it to life?*

