

AT A GLANCE

Founded:	1909
Campus Size:	4.5 acres
Number of students:	672
Preschool:	113
Lower School (K-4):	182
Intermediate School (5-6):	152
Upper School (7-12):	225
College Scholarships Awarded:	Over \$2 million
Number of Faculty:	72
Number with Masters:	42
Number with PhDs:	3
Tuition Range:	\$7,151 - \$16,503



Lower School Head

Charleston, SC

Opening for school year 2008-2009

Founded in 1909 by Mary Vardrine McBee for young women in grades 10-12, Ashley Hall has enjoyed a strong and constant history of serving its mission: *Ashley Hall produces an educated woman who is independent, ethically responsible, and prepared to meet the challenges of society with confidence.* The school now enrolls girls from Kindergarten through 12th grade and provides the Ross Early Childhood Education Center, a co-educational program for children ages 2-4.

A tradition of quality classical education is at the heart of the school. But for Ashley Hall students, school is much more than studies. It is a special community – a place of wonderful relationships with faculty, life-long friendships with fellow

students, white dresses at graduation, the Annual Christmas Play for Charleston, and Father's Day, to name but a few. As Ashley Hall approaches its centennial celebration, a strategic plan and new master plan are in place to honor its past and lead the school towards the next 100 years. Campus renovation and construction project of a new library/media and science center are well underway to ensure that the school's facilities will continue to be a place where "girls who have the will, have the ability." *Possunt quae volunt.*

The Lower School Opportunity

As the school plans for the school year 2008-2009, it seeks a new Lower School Head to direct the child-centered learning environment for students in Kindergarten through grade 4. The Lower School Head directs the day-to-day operation for the 182 LS students and 25 faculty members. An Administrative Assistant also works with the Lower School Head.. Built in 2004, the bright and spacious Lower School Building (Pardue Hall) was the first phase of the school's current strategic plan.

Lower School instruction emphasizes interactive, cooperative, and enquiry-based approaches. Students learn not only basic facts and concepts (building blocks for all other learning), but are actively encouraged to think and express themselves in both traditional and imaginative ways. Students and teachers are cooperatively engaged in the student's social, emotional, and intellectual growth process. Hands-on learning activities in all disciplines foster the critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary to become active, independent thinkers. Science and technology are designed to help students make connections between their own experiences and the world around them. Students also benefit from daily exposure to foreign language,

physical education, and the arts. Ashley Hall's well-rounded curriculum addresses different learning styles, challenging students to apply their imaginations and creativity, explore new ideas, and engage in guided inquiry.

The New Lower School Head

In addition to strong professional preparation and an advanced educational degree, Ashley Hall seeks an exceptional leader and manager as its next Lower School Head. This person needs to bring to the position:

- An understanding of independent schools, preferably through his/her own experience as a teacher and administrator
- An awareness of current educational issues and the wisdom to guide and implement the school's response to them as it develops a strong, age-appropriate curriculum for the younger child
- A sensitivity to the issues addressed in a single-sex educational environments for girls
- The ability to communicate effectively with Lower School faculty, students, and parents
- The ability to direct day-to-day activities for Lower School efficiently and caringly
- A warm, approachable personal style coupled with patience and the ability to work with disparate personalities
- A visible enjoyment in working with youngsters and for being a part of the larger school community
- An understanding of quality teaching and both the administrative and personal skills necessary to supervise and mentor the Lower School faculty
- A team player who keeps the Lower School experience in the forefront while understanding its place in the overall educational program of the school
- A commitment to the mission of Ashley Hall and the sensitivity to know how to further its purpose

The school's total enrollment is approximately 672 students. These young women and girls are outstanding not only in their academics but also in their commitment to their community. Last year over 6,000 volunteer hours were performed by Ashley Hall students. After graduation, 100 percent of its students pursue college degrees; over \$2 million in scholarships were offered by colleges and universities to alumnae in 2005-2006. Colleges such as Brown, Columbia, Davidson, Duke, Harvard, Georgetown, and Yale are among those that have recently enrolled Ashley Hall graduates.

Ashley Hall has a full-time faculty of 72 with 42 teachers holding masters degrees and 3 with doctorates. A low student/faculty ratio of 10:1 affords students the opportunity for close interaction with teachers and advisors. It is an independent, not-for-profit, 403b educational corporation which is governed by a self-perpetuating Board of Trustees. Currently there are 21 trustees, nine of whom are alumnae. The graduated schedule of tuition and fees for 2007-08 ranges from \$7,151 for preschool to \$16,503 for grades 9-12.

The campus is located in the heart of Charleston. The resources of the Medical University of South Carolina and the College of Charleston, the city's arts offerings, charming homes, and wonderful restaurants add greatly to the culture and appeal in the school's immediate surrounds. In walking distance is downtown Charleston with its historic Battery view of Fort Sumner where the first shots were fired in the American Civil War. The city hosts the famous Spoleto Festival which is known as one of the best arts festivals in the country. Settled in 1670 by English colonists, today, Charleston is a vibrant city of approximately 575,000 people. It offers its residents the mild climate and relaxed lifestyle of a southern coastal environment while affording wonderful cultural, social, recreational, and educational opportunities for its residents and many visitors.



www.ashleyhall.org

Application Procedures

Materials required to complete the application process include a letter of interest, current resume, list of 5 references, and a statement of educational philosophy. Electronic transmission of materials is preferred. Credentials will be evaluated as received. Priority will be given to those candidates whose materials are presented by February 20, 2008. It is anticipated that an appointment will be announced by late March although position responsibilities will not begin until July of 2008. An attractive salary and benefits package will be offered. *The school is an Equal Opportunity Employer.* For additional information and to apply, contact:

Attn: Ashley Hall Lower School Head Search

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