

# Edison High School

## President Search

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# Edison High School – President Search

## Edison at a Glance

Edison High School, located in Beaverton, Oregon, empowers students with learning differences to experience academic success and personal growth while preparing them for the future. Edison is guided by a set of student-centered core values characterized by attunement, collaboration, dedication, accessibility and organization. Edison students become future-ready.

Edison High School is the only high school in Oregon and Southwest Washington dedicated to serving students with complex learning differences or learning disabilities. Because no two students are alike, Edison takes a customized approach to learning, offering individual attention when and where it is needed. Within a small and supportive academic environment, students develop strong relationships with faculty members who become familiar with their learning styles. Edison students gain self-discipline and organizational skills, practice self-advocacy, and build confidence in their ability to learn alongside their academic studies. The school's work is powerful and profound, helping every student to reach his or her full potential.

As a small private school, Edison High School offers an individualized curriculum that meets each student's unique needs while maximizing their ability to learn. Edison also provides emotional support that builds confidence and maturity in its students. By empowering students with learning differences to experience academic success and personal growth, Edison does more than prepare teens for the future: it changes lives.



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## Location and Campus

Edison High School is located on the campus of Jesuit High School. Though independent, there is a collaborative relationship between the two schools. Some Edison students attend classes at Jesuit, some Jesuit students take classes at Edison, and many Edison students participate in the sports, theater, music, and other extracurricular activities offered by Jesuit High School.

The city center of Beaverton is seven miles west of downtown Portland, Oregon, and was named by Money Magazine as one of the top ten best places to live among smaller cities in the US. Beaverton is a family-friendly city, and is well-known for its many attractive and well-planned neighborhoods. Residents enjoy easy access to a complete range of community services.

The Portland Metro area has an abundance of natural beauty. It is home to beautiful parks, leafy trees, and vibrant flowers. The Willamette River flows through the city, with Mt. Hood on the horizon. The area is noted for its friendly people, great opportunities for outdoor activities, “foodie” culture, and its eco-friendly urban planning policies.



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## Academics

With a shorter school day than most mainstream high schools, classes beginning later than most high schools, and a student-to-teacher ratio of nine to one, Edison's academic program is specifically designed to meet the needs of students with complex learning differences.

Edison offers appropriate learning-based accommodations designed to meet the special needs of students with learning differences, including:

- Extended time on tests and quizzes
- American Sign Language instead of a spoken/written foreign language
- Music listening allowed (with teacher discretion)
- Kinetic activity allowed (in some classes)
- One-to-one student iPad program
- Executive functioning/computer-aided instruction software

Edison High School's academically challenging curriculum follows the state of Oregon's graduation requirements and, whenever possible, prepares students to meet Certificate of Initial Mastery benchmarks. Edison focuses on teaching the academic curriculum while providing students with organizational strategies and study skills, emphasizes core content classes to facilitate academic progress, and provides elective classes to expose students to a wide variety of topics.



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## The Edison Community

The environment at Edison is welcoming, and it is evident that Edison students feel at home on campus. Walk down the stairs into the hallway by the Community Room and feel the energy with which Edison students, a diverse and enthusiastic bunch, greet the day and their peers. Read the walls and bulletin boards, and you will learn that inclusiveness is a core value of the school. Notice the warm conversations and connections between the staff and the teenagers; a sense of humor abounds. You know Edison is a special place!

Edison High School's success is possible because of the cooperative, supportive partnerships among parents, students and staff. More than a school community, Edison's common purpose unites families, faculty, and staff into the "Edison Village." One can see the changes that occur within families of students as a result of this intentional environment. As students accept responsibility for their own learning, parents are relieved to find that they can simply "be parents" again; able to enjoy their kids and focus on their special qualities. Students learn to not only cope with their learning difference, but also to thrive in school and in life.

Edison High School faculty and staff plan activities with purpose. These activities are intended to familiarize students with the school, engage them for ease of transition, create bonds among our teens and develop strong, supportive relationships with teachers and counselors. When students are familiar with an environment and feel connected, barriers to success are removed. When they know that the adults around them are available, approachable, and willing to help, they are more likely to reach out when assistance or advice is needed.



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## The New President

Edison High School will look to the new President to further strengthen its sense of community and to enhance communication among faculty, students, parents, and alumni families. Edison High School seeks a passionate educator, experienced leader, and innovative thinker to step into the challenging role of President. We look for someone who models an unconditional acceptance and respect of the differences in others, as well as a commitment to playing an integral role in the greater community. Edison's president will play an active leadership role in development and fundraising, including solicitation of major gifts, and cultivation of relationships with the school's supporters and potential supporters.



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## The New President – Continued

### Professional Skills:

- Plays an active, visible leadership role in the Annual Fund campaign, fundraising events, and capital campaigns while promoting the school within the Portland metropolitan community as well as the independent school community
- Proficient understanding of financial sustainability and budget development
- Experience working with a governing board and success in developing a collaborative partnership
- Proven capability to facilitate community–building based on trust and transparency
- Ability both to think strategically and to implement the vision at an operational level
- Recognized capacity to hire, mentor, evaluate, and promote professional development among faculty and staff throughout the school
- Demonstrated skill in leading a professional community in a collaborative, respectful, and inclusive manner
- Globally focused and intellectually engaged, modeling the mission of the institution and culture



# Edison High School – President Search

## The New President – Continued

### Personal Attributes:

- Personable and confident, with an authentic ability to build relationships with others and maintain a visible presence throughout the school as well as the greater community
- Able to listen and invite community dialogue
- Compassionate and caring, reflective of the school's values of inclusivity and collegiality
- Committed and enthusiastic, ready to explore new opportunities and take on new challenges
- Flexible and innovative, with a willingness to problem solve creatively
- Globally focused and intellectually engaged, modeling the mission of the institution and culture



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## Selection Process and Timeline

Interested candidates should submit a resume and letter of application immediately. Applications will be reviewed until the position has been filled.

Ideal start date for new Head of School would be either prior to or by July 1st, 2018.

Questions regarding the search will only be accepted by Kelly Laboe at Ian Symmonds & Associates, [www.iansymmonds.com](http://www.iansymmonds.com), [KBLaboe@gmail.com](mailto:KBLaboe@gmail.com), [503.843.8300](tel:503.843.8300)