



**Athenian School**  
**Director of Advancement**  
*Danville, CA*

The Athenian School ([www.athenian.org](http://www.athenian.org)) is a grade 6-12 co-educational day and boarding school serving 460 students, 10% of whom are boarders. Athenian seeks to foster the whole development of each student in an atmosphere of intellectual, artistic and physical challenge. The end goal is to develop students who will live lives of meaning and purpose. Athenian School is a school with a “can do” culture, set on a stunning 75 acre campus at the base of Mt Diablo. As the school looks forward to celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015, it seeks an energetic, innovative development professional to partner with the head of school, currently in his third year at the helm, and an invested Board of Trustees in advancing the school. This is a school where connection to the mission is particularly important in determining a strong fit for a development professional; Athenian is a school that instills strong loyalty and strong connections in its stakeholders. The individual who will serve the school best as its chief advancement officer will embrace how the school impacts its students’ lives, and its commitments to justice, sustainability, experiential education, and innovation.

Athenian is a founding member of the Round Square Association of Schools ([www.roundsquare.org](http://www.roundsquare.org)), a consortium of 70 schools from five continents which share a commitment beyond academic excellence, to include personal development and responsibility. Athenian is also a member of the Green Schools Alliance ([www.greenschoolsalliance.org](http://www.greenschoolsalliance.org)) which brings together schools to solve 21<sup>st</sup> century environmental problems through sustainable and energy-smart solutions. A tour of Athenian’s campus will highlight the school’s strong commitment to this mission, including obtaining 65% of its energy through solar power. The school also makes active commitments to outdoor education (including a 26-day adventure trip as a graduation requirement) and athletic participation.

**The Opportunity**

Athenian’s Director of Advancement will manage a team of five, with oversight of all aspects of development and communications. He or she will report to the head of school, serve as a member of the senior administration team and work closely with the Board’s Development Committee.

This is a great time to be joining the Athenian leadership team. The school, energized by the vision and innovation of its head of school, has recently completed a strategic plan and will be undertaking a campus master planning initiative. The school is enjoying strong

enrollment. Optimism and a strong sense of knowing itself well pervade the campus community. An individual who is characterized by innovation, energy and optimism and who is excited to work in tandem with others to advance strategic initiatives will be a match for this leadership opportunity.

The school seeks a goal-oriented, dynamic individual with strong personal skills and successful fund-raising experience. Independent school and capital campaign experience is ideally sought. The successful candidate will have a track record of accomplishments and experience as an adept and positive manager and leader. Athenian's Director of Advancement will combine strong development experience with a genuine dedication to the school and its mission. He or she will be articulate, intelligent and a good listener – a person who is excited about education and innovation and bringing ideas to realization. In addition, the successful candidate will possess:

A personal style that inspires and builds strong connections

- Strong communication and collaborative skills
- Leadership experience managing annual giving, cultivating and stewarding donors, and ideally implementing a capital campaign
- An ability to build a cohesive advancement team: directing, managing, mentoring, empowering, delegating and instilling a culture of accountability
- Technological savvy, ideally including a working knowledge of *Raiser's Edge*
- Good humor, energy and strategic vision

By embracing diversity in all forms — gender and gender identity, sexuality, faith, ethnicity, socio-economic status — Athenian encourages students to take intellectual risks, to challenge their own assumptions and to learn to work collaboratively as global citizens and advocates for positive change. The Athenian School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, faith, sex, gender or gender expression, age, ability, sexual orientation, familial or marital status. The Athenian School is actively seeking to create a more culturally diverse school community and as such, encourages people of color and members of the LGBTIQ community to apply.

**Interested candidates should** send a letter of interest and resume to:

Jane Foote or Bill Lyons, c/o **Independent Thinking**

[it@independent-thinking.com](mailto:it@independent-thinking.com)

617-332-3131 (p)