



MEMPHIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL



LACROSSE HEAD COACH
October 2021
Position Statement

MEMPHIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL

Founded in 1893, Memphis University School (MUS) is a widely respected college-preparatory school for boys in grades 7-12 set on a 94-acre campus in Memphis, Tennessee. An engaging curriculum, a dedicated and supportive faculty, and a full complement of athletic, artistic, and extracurricular activities all conducted under the school's Honor Code create an environment in which boys thrive, becoming well-rounded young men of strong moral character, exceptionally prepared for college and life.

We have a student-faculty ratio of 7:1, and nearly 70% of our faculty hold a master's degree or Ph.D. The success of our students is a testament to an exceptional faculty: 50% of our students typically score 30 or higher on the ACT, and 90% score 3 or higher on AP exams. Remarkably low attrition rates among both families and faculty reflects satisfaction with our culture and programs.

This is an exciting time to be at MUS. We recently completed our Strategic Plan, which identified six goals focusing on the following areas: Academic Excellence, Faculty Development, Inclusivity, Visibility and Brand, Sustainability, and Facilities Enhancement (resulting in an ambitious Campus Master Plan). Plans are moving forward in all these arenas. Read more [here](#).

Our student body, encompassing 644 boys in 2021-22, is diverse, representing a wide range of differing cultural backgrounds and perspectives. This year nearly 30 percent identify as members of a cultural or racial minority group. As stated in our [Philosophy](#), "MUS aspires to be a community of mutual respect and concern regardless of individual differences." The identification of Inclusivity as a strategic goal indicates the school's dedication to providing a safe and open environment in which diversity within the community is embraced and celebrated.

MUS enjoys a strong base of support from nearly 5,000 active alumni, many of whom are leaders in their fields, and a \$61 million (and growing) endowment.

MISSION

Memphis University School is a college-preparatory school dedicated to academic excellence, cultivation of service and leadership, and the development of well-rounded young men of strong moral character, consistent with the school's Christian tradition.

Learn more at <https://www.musowls.org>.



MUS ATHLETICS

An extension of the classroom, sports have always played a significant role in shaping the character of our students. Teamwork, self-sacrifice, courage, stamina, perseverance, hard work, self-control – these values are forged in the crucible of training and competition. While we are extremely proud of our numerous athletic achievements, we realize these endeavors are never an end in themselves, but a powerful means to an end: self-knowledge and self-improvement for our boys. Our athletic program lives by the highest code of sportsmanship. We play hard, we play by the rules, and we have fun. At MUS, we always play the games well.

Read our Athletics Philosophy [here](#).

Our athletic facilities are among the finest in high school sports and rival those of some colleges, with dedicated spaces for almost all of our 14 interscholastic sports, including a multipurpose stadium, baseball stadium, sports and physical education center, two lacrosse fields, a fencing center, and indoor-outdoor tennis facilities. In addition, the school is situated on 94 acres of land, much of which is wooded, providing student-athletes with a beautiful cross country trail for training and plentiful outdoor space for practice and play. For more on the school's athletic facilities, click [here](#).



STATISTICS

- **63** team state championships since 1958
- **14** interscholastic sports; 12 in Lower School
- **86%** of Upper School students participated in at least one sport in 2020-21
- **10%** of the senior class typically commit to play sports at the college level

VARSITY SPORTS

Baseball
Basketball
Bowling
Cross Country
Fencing
Football
Golf
Lacrosse
Soccer
Swimming
Tennis
Track and Field
Trapshooting
Wrestling



LACROSSE AT MUS

Despite its relatively short history at MUS, the lacrosse program has reached the highest levels of athletic achievement. Born late in 1989, the spring 1990 team came about thanks to club founder Sam Ragsdale, MUS Class of 1990, and was led by coaches David Gearhardt, Steve Jackson, and Bill Wilson '81. For its first five seasons, lacrosse remained a club sport.

In the inaugural 1990 season, despite having less than three months of practice, the pioneering players proclaimed the presence of the Owl lacrosse tradition, clinching the state title (an easy win over Montgomery Bell Academy).

The school's first lacrosse team was one of only five other high school teams in the state, but by mid-decade, the Tennessee Scholastic Lacrosse Association (TSLA) had expanded to 13 in-state teams and three out-of-state teams.

In 1995 lacrosse became the school's 10th varsity sport. One year later Coach Elliott Dent arrived, fresh off a successful playing career at Hampden-Sydney College. In 1998 the team won the TSLA title, and Owls dominated the state field for the next three years with consecutive championships. The 2001 victory came in a double-overtime thriller against archrival Montgomery Bell Academy. In 2003 MUS lacrosse won its fifth state championship in only six years.

The early dynasty built the foundation for future championships, and as lacrosse competition increased in Tennessee, the teams compiled a four-year run of championships from 2011-14, and a three-year streak from 2016-18. The program has captured 14 TSLA championships and finished as state runner-up seven times. The success is unparalleled in Tennessee high school lacrosse.

CHAMPIONSHIP STATISTICS

State Champion

1990
98-2001
03
08
11-14
16-18

State Runner-up

1997
2004
05
07
09
10
15

LACROSSE FACILITIES

Rogers Field is the lighted, Shaw Sportexe artificial turf lacrosse field with concrete seating area. It is one of only a handful of dedicated high school fields in the country.

Gearhardt Field is the fenced-in Shaw Sportexe artificial turf field with practice wall that is dedicated to lacrosse.

Lacrosse athletes also train in the **Fisher Weight Room** in the Sue H. Hyde Sports and Physical Education Center, which is home to the MUS Strength and Conditioning Program. A full-time strength and conditioning head coach/program supervisor instructs students on the proper use of equipment and oversees their weight training.

THE POSITION: LACROSSE HEAD COACH

Memphis University School (MUS) seeks an experienced varsity lacrosse coach for the 2022-23 academic year. The lacrosse team competes with peer schools in Tennessee and out of state. MUS has been state champions 14 times and is recognized as one of the top scholastic lacrosse programs in the region. The school has sent graduates to play lacrosse at the Division I and III levels in college. Candidates from diverse backgrounds, levels of experience, and perspectives who can inspire and engage boys are encouraged to apply.

The head coach directs and coordinates all aspects of the varsity lacrosse program and is responsible for overseeing all grade-level teams in accordance with the mission of the school. Key responsibilities include preparing for and running practices, game-day coaching, coordinating travel, hiring and monitoring of assistant coaches, managing team communications, working with families of prospective student-athletes, and other administrative tasks as assigned. The ideal candidate will fit the teacher-coach model and contribute to all aspects of school life. Responsibilities will include classroom teaching or some administrative assignment outside of athletics and serving as an advisor to a homeroom group of students. In all roles the promotion of character-building, teamwork, and sportsmanship is expected.

MUS is noted for its positive working environment and low turnover of faculty and staff. The salary for this position is competitive and includes opportunities for auxiliary programming such as clinics, camps, and off-season competitive travel teams. A generous and comprehensive benefits package is offered.

MUS has engaged The Finney Search Group to lead the search for our next varsity lacrosse head coach. All interested candidates are encouraged to send a resume, cover letter, and three professional references to <https://www.thefinneysearchgroup.com/mus-lacrosse-application>. Applications sent directly to the school will not be considered.



MEMPHIS & THE MID-SOUTH

With a little over 1.35 million residents, the Memphis metropolitan area boasts a historic music scene, world-famous barbecue, and a small-town feel, despite the presence of the Memphis Grizzlies and several Fortune 500 companies – including FedEx and AutoZone, both founded by MUS alumni.

In addition to four small colleges, a medium-sized university, and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis is home to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a world-renowned leader in the treatment of catastrophic diseases in children. Memphis continues to develop and expand opportunities throughout the community with investments in projects such as a revitalized Downtown, Crosstown Concourse vertical village, and the 4,500-acre Shelby Farms Park – all of which have benefited from the leadership of MUS alumni.

Another sign of the area's renaissance, the Ford Motor Company recently announced plans to develop a 6-square-mile campus just east of Memphis for manufacturing electric vehicles and advanced batteries.

The Mid-South also supports a vibrant arts community, a diverse restaurant scene, and a variety of unique neighborhoods. Plus, the cost of living is very affordable – 12% lower than the national average.

For more information on the area, visit <https://choose901.com> and <https://memphischamber.com>.

