



**BRICK CHURCH SCHOOL**  
New York City, NY

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**DIRECTOR**

Start Date: Summer 2023

[brickchurchschool.org](http://brickchurchschool.org)



**Carney  
Sandoe**  
& ASSOCIATES



## OVERVIEW AND MISSION

The Brick Church School's mission is to provide an excellent early childhood education, nourishing children's emotional, social, intellectual, physical, ethical, and spiritual well-being through an intentionally balanced approach in an atmosphere of warmth and mutual respect. The Brick Church School actively seeks to be a community that is diverse and inclusive in all aspects (racially, economically, religiously, and welcoming to all aspects of gender, sexuality, and family structures). The School is grounded in Christian values of love and compassion, shared by many other religious traditions, and seeks to be a place in which children, their families, and educators care for others in their classrooms, city, and world. At The Brick Church School, children are guided to become happy, self-confident global citizens, mindful of God's love, accepting of themselves and others, filled with curiosity and joy in learning.

The Brick Church School is seeking its next Director to advance the School's mission and serve as a collaborative and uplifting leader for the entire School community.

## SCHOOL HISTORY

The Brick Church School was founded by the Brick Church Board and Session and had its first day of classes on October 7, 1940, when six children arrived at the Old Parish House. The nursery school was the first weekday school in a New York City Presbyterian Church.

Though academically sound, The Brick Church School did not pass the fire safety provisions because of a lack of fire escapes and was about to be closed in December 1946. Two events led to its survival. The first was that Mrs. Andrew Carnegie, a Brick Church member and neighbor, offered to share half the expense of the construction of a new Parish House. The second was that the teachers were energetic and flexible so that during Christmas vacation they moved their classrooms to temporary quarters. Despite the disruption and inconvenience, the school survived and on October 4, 1949, the children moved into the well-equipped new space.

## At a Glance

Founded: 1940

Total students: 199

Total faculty: 42

Faculty with advanced degrees: 50%

Financial aid budget: \$514,280

Students receiving aid: 12%

Endowment: \$12 million



The school continued to prosper in its new quarters. In 1990, The Brick Church School underwent its first intensive self-study, and in January 1991, it was accredited by the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS), the second early childhood school in the state to achieve this honor. The School joined the National Association of Independent Schools in 1994 and was reaccredited by NYSAIS in 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2022.

Over the years, the School has grown and thrived. It has added classrooms, students, teachers, specialists, and strengthened its senior leadership structure. The School has increased its commitment to diversity, increased financial aid, and greatly improved faculty salaries and benefits while offering strong support for professional development.

## THE SCHOOL

Brick Church School provides a rich education for children ages two to five. The school is in operation from September through May, five days a week, with an optional three-week June program. Learning takes place within a program that fosters all areas of children's development (i.e., physical, social, emotional, spiritual, language, cognitive). Thus, every aspect of the program, including the daily schedule, the classroom itself, the materials, and all activities and routines promote children's growth and learning. See a virtual tour of campus [HERE](#).

The school operates a June Program which runs for the first three weeks in June from 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. It is open to current students and Church members who are two to five years old. Activities include sprinklers and outdoor play, music and movement, games, cooking, arts and crafts, special projects, and activities guided by the children's interests.





## ACADEMICS

Inspired by the schools in Reggio Emilia, Italy, the Brick Church School carefully selects materials for their potential to enhance learning and ignite curiosity. The school day is carefully structured to provide children with engaging, enriching experiences, balanced between open-ended exploration, project work, and skill development. Expert teaching staff ensures that children are supported and challenged. Children play outdoors daily, weather permitting, and enjoy art studio, music, movement, cooking, gardening, storytelling, and Spanish classes. They also attend chapel and visit the library weekly.

When children at The Brick Church School embark on their first school experience at age two or three, they most likely venture forth from secure home environments where they are rightly the center of their worlds. The most important and most challenging task for the early childhood educator is to help the child to learn to function as a member of a group, to begin to understand the rights and needs of others, and as a Church school, this is particularly important at Brick.

To work on skill development, children of age four and older have a period of the day called “dot time” (usually a half hour) where their choices are restricted within a particular area. Math, language arts, and fine motor materials are color-coded, and the children work within that particular color, so they would be given the math color one day, the language arts color another, and the fine motor color another. This assures that the children devote adequate attention to these important areas and gives the teacher the opportunity to work with children in small groups.





Project work, and documentation of the children's engagement throughout a unit of study, provides children with an opportunity to build on what they already know, and to develop increasingly complex ideas and understandings as a result. The skills they develop allow them to investigate those fascinating topics in greater depth.

The Brick School is accredited by The New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS), and is a member school of NYAIS (The New York State Association of Independent Schools), NAIS (The National Association of Independent Schools), ISAAGNY (The Independent Schools Admissions Association of Greater New York), Early Steps, and the Parents League of New York.

## ARTS

In 2009, the Brick Church School built an art studio and created the position of studio teacher. Children visit the art studio once a week, as well as during other unscheduled blocks of time when requested by the classroom teacher. The art studio is equipped with materials and furniture for woodworking, clay, painting, drawing, printing, wire sculpture, collage, paper making, sewing, and weaving.

Each week, classroom teachers meet with the studio teacher to discuss ways in which potential or ongoing projects might be enhanced and supported by art. Teachers also plan daily art activities to introduce children to many kinds of media, art forms, and techniques. They help children to become familiar with the properties of different media and to understand such concepts as design, color, shape, and texture. Children are encouraged to explore, find their own styles, and appreciate the work of others.



The music program at The Brick Church School aims to give children the groundwork for a lifetime of joyful music-making, relying upon foundational music skills, and positive musical associations. Children go to music every week to sing, play, dance, listen, and explore. The Kodály, Orff, and Dalcroze methods of music education comprise the foundation of the music curriculum, created by the School's music teacher. Additionally, the curriculum is influenced by the Reggio Emilia project approach to early childhood education. Children participate in activities that include vocal exploration, chants, songs, singing games, musical stories, instrument play, listening activities, and movement exploration. During the school year, students sing songs and participate in music-based activities that build phonemic awareness and reinforce classroom lessons. Singing is also a part of the daily classroom routine and the weekly Chapel services, where the songs learned are based on Judeo-Christian values of friendship and faith in God.

## MOVEMENT

Teachers at Brick Church School view themselves as facilitators of children's physical development, exposing them to and guiding them through a wide variety of activities. Both formal and informal opportunities to engage in physical activities are built into the daily schedule. In all classrooms, gross motor activities take place regularly through games, songs, and dramatic play.

All classes have at least 30 minutes of outdoor time each day, while indoor areas such as Watson Hall and the Youth Floor are used in inclement weather. Teachers often organize activities such as catch, ball bouncing, obstacle courses, or tumbling on mats for their students. Two and three year olds use the Garden, exploring climbing equipment, a jumping tube, tricycles, and two sand tables.





The Roof serves as the outdoor playground for the four- and five-year-olds and consists of climbing equipment including slides, a cargo net, ladders, and a climbing rope, as well as tricycles, scooters, and a basketball hoop. On the Youth Floor, children use slides, climbing structures, a balance beam, mats, wagons, tricycles, and cars. In Watson Hall, teachers make a wide variety of portable equipment available, including jump ropes, hula hoops, balls, and more. Children are taught safe methods and rules for using all equipment and are encouraged by their teachers to try all the different activities offered to them.

## NEW YORK CITY, NY

New York City is an international hub of culture and humanity. Situated in the Carnegie Hill neighborhood of the Upper East Side of Manhattan, Brick is blocks away from Central Park and near world class cultural sites. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Guggenheim, and other museums present great art from around the world, while galleries in the Lower East Side and Chelsea promote new talent. With more to savor than art, spots such as the American Museum of Natural History, the Louis Armstrong House Museum, the Tenement Museum, One World Observatory, and the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum are popular places for residents and tourists alike. Additionally, Broadway, Lincoln Center, the Barclays Center, and many smaller venues mean it's never hard to find a concert or performance.

If the city itself cannot hold your attention, it provides easy access to spectacular beaches on Long Island, picturesque mountains upstate, and rolling Hudson River valleys—all just a few hours' drive from the heart of Manhattan.





## OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The Brick Church School is one of the leading nursery schools in New York City and is a model for early childhood education. The school is known for its strong community and how it forges deep bonds with its families. The school is a forward-looking and dynamic learning environment and is now seeking a Director who will advance the School's mission and serve as a collaborative and uplifting leader for the entire School community.

In addition to being actively engaged in the daily life and operations of running this distinguished and complex school, the new Director will be expected to:

- Continue the school's commitment to academic excellence and kindergarten preparedness;
- Actively lead and support students and their families in the exmissions/outplacement process;
- Lead the school in its long-standing relationship with Brick Church and maintain connections and relationships with the church's leadership and congregation;
- Recruit, retain, and support outstanding faculty and staff to meet its mission;
- Support and strengthen the school's already noteworthy commitment to professional growth, engaging the faculty in meaningful professional development;
- Connect with school families, post-pandemic, by renewing established volunteer and social interactions and creating new opportunities for connection;
- Serve as the external face of the school and be a friendly leader for the children and families;
- Support and sustain a diverse and inclusive community.





## DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

- A thorough and demonstrated knowledge of early childhood education;
- Exceptional interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate with inspiration and clarity to faculty, families, and church members;
- Provide effective, collaborative, and mission-centered leadership of the school within the particular context of the wider Brick community;
- Experience with outplacement/exmissions in a competitive independent school environment;
- Decisive leader, who can work with multiple constituent groups with respect and inclusivity;
- Leadership skills to handle the fundraising and financial management responsibilities of the position;
- Eagerness to engage actively with families and faculty and be accessible and visible in the community.

## TO APPLY

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence. Candidates will ultimately need to submit the following materials as separate PDF documents:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
- A current résumé;
- A packet of three writing samples or previously used communications to constituents (e.g., article, speech, blog post, etc.) pertaining to leadership and/or educational issues.

Should you advance in the search, you will eventually also be asked to share a list of five professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each. References will not be contacted without the candidate's permission. Materials should be sent to:

### **Allison Stiles**

Search Consultant

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### **Bob Vitalo**

Senior Consultant

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