

HAWTHORN

LEADERSHIP SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Dear Community Partners,

Hawthorn Leadership School for Girls opened in North St. Louis in August 2015 as Missouri's only single-sex public school. Hawthorn has become a second home to our nearly 200 students, faculty and staff who are completely committed to our students' success. This school year we reached an exciting milestone as we launched our high school with our first class of freshmen -- Hawthorn's Trailblazing Class of 2021!

Hawthorn is a college preparatory school with a particular focus on STEM; our goal is for 100% of our graduates to be prepared for success in their post-secondary education and for the demands of the 21st century workforce. Hawthorn's mission is to educate young women who will become leaders in their professions and communities; our focus on STEM will prepare our girls for future success while strengthening the pipeline into the STEM workforce, increasing the number of women, in particular minority women, who are prepared for these challenging and well-paying careers.

When we launched our high school this year we also launched a partnership with the Microsoft TEALS (Technology Education and Literacy in Schools) computer science program. This partnership, funded by Microsoft Philanthropies, is designed to build a sustainable computer science program by pairing trained CS industry professionals with a classroom teacher to team teach CS. The TEALS curriculum, adapted from UC Berkeley's *CS 10: Beauty and Joy of Computing*, offers students a hands-on introduction to CS using a block-based graphical interface and Python-based programming as they learn how to translate their ideas into code. The year-long course, available to a select group of Hawthorn girls, changes the way students think about problem-solving and prepares them for a series of advanced CS courses during their high school years. It also sets them on a path toward college admission, matriculation and completion.

Our experience with Microsoft TEALS this year was a success, and we are continuing our partnership next school year. In the 2018-2019 school year, the course will be offered to our sophomore students who were not enrolled in the TEALS course this school year.

The Microsoft TEALS program relies on community volunteers who will leverage their skills and talents to transform the trajectory of Hawthorn students' education. **We are looking for TEALS volunteers with professional or academic CS backgrounds to provide CS expertise and support to the classroom teacher on a weekly basis.** This is a major commitment of time and talent. TEALS volunteers will participate in professional development over the summer and commit to team-teaching with the Hawthorn classroom teacher for the academic year. The

commitment is at least two hours a week, plus additional time over the summer. TEALS will be taught first period to help accommodate our volunteers' work schedules.

We realize this is not a typical request for volunteer hours. It's big. But what a pay-off. Your work will be truly impactful not just next year, but for years to come. If you are interested in changing lives, here is a real chance to do just that.

If you or someone you know works in the Computer Science or Software Engineering field and would like to learn more about this opportunity, please contact Hawthorn's TEALS Partnership Coordinator: Meghan Bliss (**mbliss@hawthornschoo.org**). We are currently accepting applications through the TEALS Volunteer Application portal at <http://r.tealsk12.org/sqvs01>.

I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Meghan Bliss

You can read more about TEALS on their website at <http://www.tealsk12.org>.