THE GORDON SCHOOL

8th Grade Humanities Teacher & Civil Rights Trip Leader

Job Description

The Gordon School is a racially diverse nursery through eighth grade coeducational independent school in East Providence, RI. The curriculum is rooted in multicultural practice and social justice, with an emphasis on developing intellectual leadership, active imagination, and a child’s natural inquisitive nature. Students are challenged and inspired to be active workers toward their own education and teachers strive to develop meaningful relationships with each child and family.

We are seeking a full time eighth grade Humanities teacher and Civil Rights Trip Leader who will serve as an advisor to a small group of eighth grade students. The ideal candidate will possess solid skills in teaching writing to middle schoolers, have a deep knowledge and passion for teaching history with particular focus on centering the voices and experiences of historically marginalized communities. The eighth grade humanities teacher and Civil Rights Trip Leader must be comfortable with discussing topics of race, class, and gender and demonstrate a high level of cultural competence and humility.

Our curriculum from nursery through eighth grade has a particular focus on social justice and equity. Our academic program is both rigorous and relevant and provides multiple entry points for students. A culminating experience for our 8th graders is a Civil Rights Trip to the South (now in its 20th year). The 8th grade Humanities Teacher and Civil Rights Trip Leader is responsible for teaching a curriculum that culminates in this transformative experience.

**Personal Attributes and Skills Required**

* Appreciate and enjoy working with middle school age children
* Be energetic, flexible, resilient, and open to change and new ideas
* Have a deep sense of community, be respectful of adults and children, understand and respect human differences, and support multicultural practice and pedagogy
* Have a strong sense of self, a good sense of humor, and a positive outlook on one’s professional endeavors
* Have a strong desire to work in a racially diverse community
* Have strong interpersonal skills that support and engender trust and be able to work as a positive member of a team of teachers
* Be able to communicate with parents, colleagues, and students clearly and accurately, both orally and in writing
* Possess good organizational capabilities and be able to implement these effectively

# Prerequisites for the Position

* Possess an undergraduate degree at a minimum, be well-grounded in middle school education, and have experience working with children of this age and with their parents
* Have knowledge of multicultural pedagogy and practice and have experience working in a racially diverse community
* Have an understanding of current educational practices and of curriculum that supports a developmental, process-oriented approach and thinking from multiple perspectives
* Understand assessment methods that are appropriate for evaluating middle school students’ progress
* Have experience using process-based reading and writing instruction
* Have an understanding of learning styles and learning differences

# Duties and Expectations

* Lead the Eighth Grade Civil Rights Curriculum and Trip to Alabama and Georgia-- a transformative experience that serves as the culmination of Gordon’s social justice curriculum
* Create and implement an age-appropriate curriculum that integrates language arts and social studies/history
* Be responsible for the supervision of all students in his/her classroom and for other duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Middle School Director
* Set and monitor the tone of the classroom to ensure an environment that is well-ordered and exhibits respect for classmates, teachers, and the school as a whole
* Serve as an advisor to a group of eighth grade students
* Engage as part of a grade-level teaching team and other humanities teachers, working closely with colleagues in planning and implementation of curriculum and grade level activities
* Engage in ongoing professional development, especially as it relates to growth as a multicultural practitioner
* Attend and participate in team, divisional, and all-school meetings
* Write progress reports and hold conferences with parents at regularly scheduled times, and at other times as deemed appropriate
* Collaborate with academic support teachers to assure success for every student