



Title: Opal School Teacher
Department: Teaching and Learning

Status: Full Time/Exempt (August 2017-June 2018)
Schedule: M-F; 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Reports to: Opal School Curriculum Lead

POSITION SUMMARY

The Teacher has responsibility for classroom teaching, learning, documentation, assessment, and communication within Opal Charter School and the Museum Center for Learning. The Teacher collaborates on inquiry approaches to teaching and learning through the languages of the arts and sciences for children in grades preK-5. Working in partnership with fellow teachers, students and families, the Teacher establishes classroom communities that reflect the mission, philosophy, values, and teaching principles of Opal School and Portland Children's Museum. The Teacher fulfills Opal School's mission of innovation and dissemination through reflection and publication for a larger audience.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

Teaching and Learning (60%)

- Plan and guide experiences for children within the disciplines of reading, writing, mathematics, science, social sciences, and the languages of the arts that reflect Opal School's principles of teaching and learning in collaboration with teaching team
- Collaborate with teaching team to develop and apply knowledge of the Opal curriculum structures (*i.e.*, Story Workshop, Literacy Studio, Project Work, Math Workshop) and student Goals and Expectations while planning daily instruction
- Support the social and emotional intelligences of children as an integral part of all curriculum disciplines through the use of conflict resolution, reflective listening, inquiry, and dynamic learning frames
- Arrange the physical environment of the classroom in ways that reflect Opal School's principles of teaching and learning
- Integrate knowledge of the Common Core Standards with Opal School's approaches to address the standards
- Use research, documentation, and assessment to inform teaching practice and curriculum decisions
- Participate as a member of the community and collaborative teaching team through dialogue, analysis of student work, sharing observations and questions, planning, and capturing thinking

Research and Dissemination (40%)

- Regularly employ technology required to document, organize, and make accessible the experiences of children and adults including digital photographs, audio recordings, scanned work, and video
- Employ strategies for making adult and children's learning visible in a variety of ways, including blog posts, presentations, documentation panels, etc.
- Regularly communicate evidence of reflective practice with teaching team in weekly meetings, email, and Evernote

- Communicate with individual parents/guardians about student experiences, challenges, and growth toward Opal School Goals and Expectations, including conferences, academic records, and Evernote portfolios
- Contribute to weekly classroom or community updates for parents/guardians
- Actively participate in weekly staff professional development and Center workshops
- Contribute to Opal School Online and other Center publications
- Contribute to Center workshops, including the development of presentations

Additional responsibilities will be assigned by supervisor and outlined in work plans.

QUALIFICATIONS

Requirements

- Elementary teaching license required, master's degree preferred
- Experience as a teacher-researcher preferred

Skills

- Demonstrated understanding of the developmental stages and needs of children ages 5-11 years
- Demonstrated excellent writing skills
- Knowledgeable about the experiences and practices of the early childhood schools of Reggio Emilia, Italy

Competencies

- Values parents as important partners in the work of the school
- Pays attention to the many ways that children make meaning of the world
- Collaborates with children and adults in positive ways
- Has a keen interest and curiosity about the nature of learning and teaching
- Finds joy in working with children and adults
- Approaches teaching as a life-long learner
- Embraces reflection as a tool for growth and learning
- Demonstrates commitment to equity
- Seeks out resources to continually improve one's practice
- Values learning from mistakes

WORKING CONDITIONS

- Standing and sitting in classrooms designed for children ages 5-11
- Working outside every day with children in all weather conditions and hiking on uneven ground
- Lifting up to 50 pounds

SALARY & BENEFITS

- Public charter schools are funded at 80% of regular district schools, therefore salary is roughly 80% of Portland Public Schools equivalents
- As a full time employee, you will qualify for
 - Medical insurance (we pay 90% of the premiums)
 - Retirement contributions

- Discount on TriMet annual pass
- Opal Beginning School tuition discount
- Subsidized aftercare for children of staff
- Free annual Children’s Museum pass
- Pass for free admission (for 2) to many other area museums and attractions
- Onsite Café discount
- Free parking

Interview Process: Candidates selected for interviews will be asked to complete an application. The hiring process requires finalists to participate in up to two interviews, provide a writing sample and may include observation of instructional practice. Finalists must pass a background check.

To Apply: Please send resume, cover letter with salary requirements and three professional references to resumes@portlandcm.org

No phone calls, please!
EOE/Minorities/Females/Vet/Disability

ABOUT US

Mission of Portland Children’s Museum

We collaborate to create transformative learning experiences through the arts and sciences.

Organization Overview

Portland Children’s Museum consists of three aligned entities: (1) the Museum, where exhibits and programs serve the public both on- and off-site, (2) Opal School, a fee-based preschool and K-5 public charter school, and (3) the Museum Center for Learning, which documents and disseminates fresh approaches to education and provides professional development for educators. In this description, Museum, School, and Center refer to the specific entity, while Portland Children’s Museum (or, “the organization”) refers to the whole.

Our Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

In the Portland metro area, 47% of students are children of color. At Portland Children's Museum, we strive to have our guest and school families reflect that diversity, and for our staff and board to be equally diverse. We are committed to eliminating barriers to access and equity and see a diverse workforce as a key step toward this goal. We actively seek to recruit, hire, promote, and retain a diverse workforce—one that welcomes and engages people from every background. We value our staff members, volunteers, and board members and their individual backgrounds, which further our ability to serve and learn from the diverse families that enrich our community. We invite you to join us on our journey.

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