Outdoor Education Teacher

Job Description

Elementary School

2022

Purpose Statement/Job Description: The Outdoors Education Teacher provides instructional leadership that enables students to learn experientially, through direct guided experiences using sensory awareness, active participation and nature’s resources. This teacher works in close partnership with classroom teachers and IB coordinator to create student learning opportunities that align to Common Core, supports educational objectives, augments classroom curricula, and extends academic/social emotional growth. It is the obligation of the Outdoors Education Teacher to work in concert with the respective charter document (also referred to as charter petition) and to follow the guidelines and policies as set forth by the petition and as enunciated by the Principal, AEA Board of Trustees, and the California State Board of Education. The Teacher will report directly to the site Principal. The Principal will be responsible for the ongoing evaluation and monitoring of classroom teaching, adherence to the school philosophy and vision (including but not limited to implementation of the IB programs), and will work with the Teachers in fully implementing the school curriculum.

Essential Functions:
Duties may include, but are not limited to the following:

- To work with the Principal and staff to develop, implement, reflect upon, and improve a school curriculum that reflects the AEA mission and the respective school’s vision, and addresses the educational needs of the students and the California content standards and Frameworks in a thematic approach that allows Teachers to teach and students to learn.
- To evaluate the individual needs of all students and develop an educational learning plan that addresses those needs and reflects the curriculum.
- Lesson Plans: Weekly and long-term lesson planning should be thorough and complete, available for Administration upon request. Academically rigorous substitute plans must be completed by the start of the school year and clearly identified for anyone entering the room.
- Standards-Based Objectives: All classroom instruction should be aligned to the appropriate common core standards and should be clear so that students, parents and staff fully understand the objective of daily lessons. It is expected that the Teacher demonstrates content expertise and model and uphold academic excellence and achievement at all times.
- Develop classroom thematic units for the Outdoors Education Program that are based upon International Baccalaureate guidelines (IBPYP).
- To assess student performance with the respective IB programs in alignment with AEA assessment and reporting guidelines.
- Research and utilize the community resources available to the school and help plan and organize curriculum-appropriate field trips and other activities to expand the learning opportunities of all children.
- Provide accurate student attendance records.

**Learning & Teaching Outdoors**

- Prepare for and teach multiple lessons per day to various grade levels (K-5)
- Create a safe and positive outdoor classroom culture
- Collaborate with teachers to integrate indoor and outdoor learning experiences
- Coordinate growing and harvesting in the garden with students
**Additional Functions:**

**Community Engagement**
- Build strong relationships with community members in order to serve the needs of the school and students
- Inform learning community of outdoor education content and initiatives
- Engage parent and community volunteers in the garden
- Support organizational data tracking by accurately collecting and inputting data related to volunteer engagement and grant seeking

**Outdoor Classroom Design**
- Collaborate with your school community to maintain and improve the school garden
- Plant and maintain the school garden throughout the school year and summer
- Develop site infrastructure to support learning outcomes

**Job Requirements:**
- Valid CA teaching license or permit required in biology
- Field knowledge such as building skills, gardening skills, composting etc
- Fingerprint clearance
- TB clearance Current CPR training
- Experience with gardening or farming

**Knowledge**
- Common Core Standards
- IB philosophy, expected practices, and assessment techniques
- Current trends in educational research
- Special education laws and internal AEA operations/policies
- Willingness to learn new information and put new strategies into practice

**Skills/Abilities**
- The primary responsibility of the Outdoor Education Teacher is to supervise the children in her/his care.
- Wherever they may be on campus, whether in the library, computer room or playground, Teachers are responsible for direct student supervision at all times.
The California Education Code dictates that students cannot be left in the care of a parent while on campus, except in small groups, at the discretion of the Principal. Teachers must be vigilant in order to protect the safety and well-being of all students.

- To maintain a current website and daily email use to be used for communicating with parents and staff.
- To communicate clearly, accurately, and in a timely manner to students and parents regarding the outdoor education classroom expectations for academic performance, conduct, procedures, and classroom interaction with other students and the Teacher. The Principal should be provided with copies of all parent communication.
- To develop, in consultation with the Principal, goals and objectives for each school year which become the basis for performance evaluation as applicable.
- To promptly and proactively inform the Principal of problems (or potential problems) or challenges in the classroom and/or involving parents of intra-staff interaction.
- Teacher supervision before/after school is required and is scheduled on a weekly basis.
- The teacher on duty must closely monitor the behavior of students while on duty.
- To work with the Principal in the preparation and execution of safety procedures: fire, earthquake, and other potential disaster situations.
- To attend all regularly-scheduled Faculty meetings and in-services unless otherwise approved by the Principal.

Additional Non-Instructional Duties Could Include:

Duties may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Participating in student promotional ceremonies
- Participating in SST Meetings if applicable
- Participating in IEP meetings if applicable
- Meeting with Administration
- Preparation for and participation in the Spring Open House
- Preparation for and participation in the Back-to-School Night
- Visits to other school sites to observe best-practices.
- To welcome frequent and often unscheduled visits from the Principal and/or other faculty members, conducted in the spirit of professional growth and development and the betterment of the AEA faculty team
- To maintain an open classroom,
understanding that the school has many visitors and that classrooms reflect who we are and what we do.

- To participate in general parent meetings and special evening presentations sponsored by the school when necessary (Parent University, etc.).
- To exemplify the best ideals of the teaching profession at all times while on campus and participating in school-sponsored events and activities.
- To create a classroom environment that establishes clear, consistent expectations for students.
- To work with the Principal in the preparation and execution of safety procedures: fire, earthquake, and other potential disaster situations.
- Support and monitor the school’s student uniform policy.

Other Considerations:

- Students should NEVER be left in a classroom or outdoor education area without adult supervision.
- Teachers should not provide students with classroom keys, even for temporary use.
- General classroom appearance should always be neat and clean.
- Maintenance or repair problems must be reported to the office or custodian immediately.
- All pathways/walkways within the classroom or outdoor education area must be clear of clutter or obstacles at all times, for fire safety reasons.
- No student work, banners, flags, signs, etc. may be hung from any classroom ceilings, as per CA fire safety code.
- School rules state that gum and soda are not allowed on campus; Teachers should provide a model of this requirement.

Essential physical requirements necessary to perform this job:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job.

- Ability to work in the elements for a significant part of the day.
- Ability to work at a desk, conference table or in meetings of various configurations.
- Ability to stand and circulate for extended periods of time.
- Ability to sit on the ground on carpet for an extended period of time.
- Ability to lift and move and carry objects of up to 50 pounds.
- Ability to see for purposes of reading correspondence, documents and printed matter and observing students.
- Ability to hear and understand speech at normal levels.
- Ability to communicate so others will be able to clearly understand normal conversation.