

# JOB DESCRIPTION



## Middle Way School 4/5th Grade Assistant Teacher

### Overview

The Middle Way School is an independent progressive elementary school founded in 2018 in order to research and develop a model of modern education based on Buddhist wisdom traditions. Our teacher-researchers have a deep understanding of childhood development and are deeply engaged in this development process. We are carefully building our faculty to accommodate healthy enrollment growth. In the 2021-2022 school year, MWS will have 80 students in grades nursery to 5. We are actively seeking an assistant teacher who will work closely with the lead teacher to support a mixed 4th and 5th grade class with 14 students.

MWS is located on five acres of forested land. It is an uplifted, dynamic, environment to work with ample professional support. We seek seasoned teachers who know how to meet conventional outcomes in unconventional ways and who have the skillful means to differentiate in ways that help meet students academically and socially. Teachers must have a deep interest in the Middle Way mission and vision and an openness to manifest it through presence and pedagogy. Being a practicing Buddhist is not necessary, however, an understanding of Buddhist principles and terminology is appreciated. We ask that all staff develop a personal contemplative practice of some kind and participate in secular Buddhist studies.

We hire and enroll without discriminating against any identifying factor which may include race, age, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socioeconomic background. We will make accessibility accommodations for individuals with disabilities to the fullest extent possible. As an institution and as individuals we recognize that we have the responsibility to actively change the power differences that perpetuate biases against historically underrepresented groups. Our inclusion efforts are a dynamic process. We welcome your experience and invite your input on how our school community can continue to evolve.

### Responsibilities

- Co-creating, evaluating, and implementing curricula with the class lead teacher, in cooperation with the Head of School, Curriculum Coordinators, and other teachers in the school.
- Developing and documenting curriculum, including action research, lesson and unit plans.
- Creating a positive, nurturing community in an organized and inviting classroom environment
- Providing differentiated instruction to support and challenge students across subjects
- Supporting students' development in all areas including dharma, social/emotional, embodiment/physical, math, reading, writing, social studies, handwriting and spelling
- Co-developing, planning and supervising field trips
- Attending staff meetings
- Planning and participating in seasonal celebrations and events
- Supervising recess and/or lunch periods each day
- Participating in the admissions process
- Maintaining a daily contemplative practice and occasional dharma study
- Pursuing ongoing professional development
- Participating in summer curriculum development and environment work

### Core Competencies

- Knowledge of current best practices in elementary education, including play-based learning, early childhood development, and awareness/mindfulness practices.

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- Skillful means and strong instincts with respect to the social-emotional needs of 4th and 5th graders.
- Background in progressive education and constructivist theory and ability to put it into practice.
- A passion for teaching about social movements and change makers, especially those from traditionally underrepresented groups.
- Knowledge, understanding, and use of active learning strategies to support a range of learners
- Ability to creatively integrate and adapt curriculum to engage learners
- A creative and rigorous approach to information gathering and analysis, ability to understand broad ideas and synthesize
- Clear communication – excellent command of written and spoken English.
- Ability to work collaboratively as part of a team – especially when it is necessary to facilitate change, overcome an impasse, face an issue, or ensure that decisions are made.

### Qualities

- A passion for education and carrying out the vision and mission of Middle Way
- A love and understanding of children and early childhood development
- An interest in personal and professional growth
- Openness to the teachings of the Buddhadharma
- Flexible, open minded, adaptable, patient with change
- Able to work independently and in teams
- Practical and resourceful
- Able to see the merits of perspectives other than his/her own; openness to different and new ways of doing things
- Reliable and respectful of deadlines
- Humor!

### Required Education/Experience

- Bachelor's degree. Master's degree preferred
- Preferably 3-5 years of experience in grade level
- Responsible Classroom and SEE Curriculum experience appreciated

### Physical Capabilities

- A high level of stamina
- Ability to lift 25-30 lbs.
- Ability to move, see, hear, and speak with children to ensure children's health and safety.

### How to Apply

Please send a cover letter explaining why you are interested in a position at Middle Way along with a resume to [contact@middlewayschool.org](mailto:contact@middlewayschool.org).

### Terms

Our salaries are highly competitive with local independent schools. Contract is for August 15, 2021-August 15, 2022. Professional development week begins August 23, 2021. The school year runs September 8 through June 9, 2022. Teachers remain on campus through June 16, 2022. We have a group health insurance plan that staff may buy into.