



# JOB DESCRIPTION

## Interim First Grade (Wild Horses) Teacher

### Overview

Middle Way School is pioneering a new model of education based on the best in education research and enhanced by the wisdom and compassion of Buddhist traditions. Master teachers with a deep understanding of childhood development are the pillars of this education. Lead teachers are responsible for co-creating, evaluating, implementing and documenting curricula in cooperation with the Head of School, curriculum coordinators, and other teachers in the school. Lead teachers are responsible for supporting students' development in all areas including social-emotional, physical, academic. They also work with the dharma curriculum coordinator to integrate Buddhist wisdom and practice into the classroom. Lead teachers assess students' progress and report to parents on a regular basis. MWS school culture relies on daily meditation and ample professional support. We expect our teachers to meet conventional outcomes in unconventional ways and use skillful means to differentiate in ways that help meet students academically and socially. Teachers are expected to explore the Middle Way model of development and actively engage in its creation. Being a practicing Buddhist is not necessary, however, an understanding of Buddhist principles and terminology is expected. In addition, we ask that all staff develop a personal contemplative practice of some kind.

This position serves as an interim replacement for Middle Way's First Grade (Wild Horses) Teacher who is on leave for the 2022-2023 school year, with the possibility of extending an additional year.

Middle Way School recognizes 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 are most interested in finding the best person for the job, and that candidate may be one who comes from a less traditional background. We would encourage you to apply, even if you don't believe you meet every one of the qualifications described.

### Responsibilities

- Creating a positive, nurturing classroom community
- Setting up and maintaining an organized and inviting classroom environment
- Developing and documenting curriculum including unit and lesson plans
- Collaborating with other staff regarding curriculum development and documentation of work.
- Providing differentiated instruction to support and challenge students across academic subjects
- Maintaining frequent contact with parents including a weekly newsletter
- Writing narrative reports twice per year and leading parent-teacher conferences with benchmarks documentation twice per year
- Supporting and training of interns/assistants
- Developing, planning and supervising field trips
- Attending staff meetings
- Planning and participating in seasonal celebrations and events
- Supervising two recess periods each day
- Participating in the admissions process



## Job Description - Interim First Grade Teacher 2022-2023

- Exploring and maintaining a contemplative practice and occasional dharma study
- Pursuing ongoing professional development
- Participating in summer curriculum development and classroom setup

### Core Competencies

- Knowledge of current best practices in elementary education, including play-based learning, outdoor education, early childhood development, mindfulness and social emotional learning
- Background in progressive education and constructivist theory and ability to put it into practice
- 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
- Open 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

### 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.

### Terms

- On-site at Middle Way School in Saugerties, NY
- Full-time for the entirety of the 2022-2023 academic year
- New York State background check
- Proof of current COVID-19 vaccination



## Job Description - Interim First Grade Teacher 2022-2023

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.