

# JOB DESCRIPTION



## Third/Fourth 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 2022-2023 school year, MWS will have 90 students in grades nursery to 6. We are actively seeking an assistant teacher who will support lead teachers in 3rd and 4th grade classes in the morning, and serve as a floating assistant in the afternoon primarily supporting our specialty classes such as outdoor education, art, and physical education.

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.

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

- Assisting and facilitating activities with lead teachers.
- Supervising recess in collaboration with other teachers
- Supporting teachers in preparing and organizing learning materials
- Caretaking the school environment, including cleaning and preparation, as well as supporting children to take care of the school environment
- Supporting students' development in all areas including dharma, social/emotional, embodiment/physical, math and reading
- Supporting students' social interactions and learning throughout the day to create a culture of harmony, reverence and respect.
- Co-developing and participating in field trips
- Attending staff meetings
- Planning and participating in seasonal celebrations and events
- Supervising recess periods each day
- Exploring and maintaining a contemplative practice and occasional dharma study
- Pursuing ongoing professional development

### Core Competencies



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- Knowledge of current best practices in elementary education, including play-based learning, early childhood development, and awareness/mindfulness practices.
- Skillful means and strong instincts with respect to the social-emotional needs of 3rd and 4th 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 Buddhadharmā
- 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 required, Master's degree a plus.
- Preferably 3-5 years of experience in grade level - experience teaching reading and math a plus
- Responsive 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.

### Terms

- On-site at Middle Way School in Saugerties, NY
- Full-time for the entirety of the 2022-2023 academic year (10 months)
- All school breaks paid
- New York State background check
- Proof of current COVID-19 vaccination

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- Salary begins at \$29,000 for a 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM schedule

### How to Apply

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

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.