

# JOB DESCRIPTION



MIDDLE WAY  
SCHOOL

## Middle Way School Lead Elementary Teacher

### Overview

The Middle Way School (MWS) is hiring a Lead Elementary Teacher for a mixed-age 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. MWS is pioneering a progressive model of education based on the best in education research and enhanced by the timeless methods of Buddhist wisdom traditions. Master teachers with deep understanding of childhood development are the pillars of this education. We are carefully building our faculty to accommodate growing enrollment. Lead teachers are responsible for co-creating, evaluating, and implementing, curricula in cooperation with the Head of School and other teachers in the school. Lead teachers are responsible for supporting students' development in all areas including social-emotional, physical, math, literacy, art, science and social studies. Lead teachers also assess students' progress and report to parents on a regular basis. MWS is located on five acres of forested land. It is an uplifted, dynamic, environment to work, with daily meditation and 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 exactly where they are academically. Applicants must have a deep interest in the Middle Way view and openness to manifest it through presence and pedagogy. Being a practicing Buddhist is not necessary, however, an understanding of Buddhist principles and terminology and experience in Buddhist practices is appreciated.

### Special 2020 Accommodations

Due to the health impacts of the pandemic, MWS may experience periodic closures and revert to remote learning. MWS will follow the recommendations of the health authorities to make these decisions. As teachers at MWS you must be prepared to teach remotely incorporating innovative methods in order to engage children and maintain community. MWS administration will provide support to teachers to adapt instruction to remote learning. When in session at the school, teachers may have to implement additional requirements of social distancing and other health and safety requirements and responsibilities including sanitation and hygiene measures.

### Responsibilities

- Creating a positive, nurturing classroom community
- Setting up and maintaining an organized and inviting classroom environment
- Developing curriculum, including unit and lesson plans
- Providing differentiated instruction to support and challenge students across academic subjects
- Maintaining frequent contact with parents, including a weekly newsletter
- Writing reports and leading parent-teacher conferences twice each 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 recess
- Participating in monthly Community Meetings

- Participating in the admissions process including Open Houses
- Maintaining a daily contemplative practice
- Pursuing ongoing professional development
- Participating in summer curriculum development and environment work

### Core Competencies

- Knowledge of current best practices in elementary education, including experiential/inquiry learning, 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 and harmoniously as part of a team,

### 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
- Reliable and respectful of deadlines
- Humor!

### Required Education/Experience

- Masters Degree in related field
- 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.

### Term and Compensation

- We are hiring for the 2020-21 school year. Compensation commensurate upon experience.

### How to Apply:

- The Middle Way School actively seeks applications from the most capable, professional candidates. Please send your resume and a cover letter to [contact@middlewayschool.org](mailto:contact@middlewayschool.org) or call 845-272-0140 for more information. You may ask for Grace Louis (Head of School) or Noa Jones (Executive Director).

The Middle Way School welcomes and in fact strongly encourages students and prospective employees of any race, age, national or ethnic origin, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or socioeconomic background to apply. The Middle Way School will make reasonable accommodations for individuals with known disabilities unless doing so would result in an undue hardship. As an institution and as individuals we have the responsibility to actively change the power differences that perpetuate biases against historically underrepresented and disadvantaged groups.