

Physical Education Teacher

Lafayette Preparatory Academy, a charter school, opened in the fall of 2013 initially as a K-2 charter school with 74 students and will grow with its students through 8th grade. Our mission is to be a community that prepares students for academic and collegiate success and equips them to enter the world as active, responsible, and involved citizens and leaders. We utilize a rigorous academic model to implement research-proven curriculum focused on critical thinking and problem-based inquiry. As a community school, serving the needs of students from Downtown/Near Southside neighborhoods, LPA will support social and economic growth and sustainability in the city of St. Louis.

Teaching at Lafayette Preparatory Academy:

Lafayette Preparatory Academy seeks passionate educators and relentless over-achievers who have proven to be ambitious self-starters and operate with both a sense of urgency and responsibility. Teaching at Lafayette Preparatory Academy is ideal for an educator with deep passion for instruction and who is eager to participate in a collaborative coaching method in order to perfect his/her craft. In addition to daily planning time and weekly collaborative development after school, teachers will receive regular advice, support, guidance, and feedback from supportive leaders.

Teachers will also participate in an extensive on-boarding process during their first year at LPA that will begin in mid-July and last for four to five weeks. Each subsequent year, teachers participate in Professional Learning Institute which begins in July every year.

All of the teachers at LPA utilize backwards design to create and implement rigorous learning experiences that engage critical thinking while also encouraging the development of content knowledge and skills needed for success. (These may include, but are not limited to gross motor skills, teamwork, sportsmanship, rules and skills for various sports.) Teachers employ Project-Based Learning and Design Thinking methodologies to encourage robust learning for all students. Additionally, LPA teachers are driven to help their students succeed. They embrace growth mindset for themselves and encourage and develop it with their students.

Specific Responsibilities:

Physical Education and Health- The PE teacher at LPA will initially teach all students in Kindergarten through 7th grade. LPA is a growing school, adding two classes of students every year. As the school grows, the PE program will eventually include two teachers (one who will likely focus on elementary and one who will likely focus on middle school). The PE teacher will begin by building upon the current program (K-6) and designing the program for 7th grade.

Academic Achievement and student character development:

- Plan instruction appropriate to subject and grade level and differentiate to the needs of each individual student.
- Utilize Project-Based Learning/Problem-Based Learning/Design Thinking to drive learning within the classroom
- Encourage innovation, creativity and social responsibility.
- Develop and employ multiple assessments effectively.
- Analyze effectiveness of instruction through regular student assessment and reflection on teaching practices and use assessment data to drive instruction and decision-making.
- Collaborate to develop a set of ambitious year-end goals for each student. Working backwards from these goals, determine benchmarks.
- Create a positive, achievement-oriented and structured learning environment that excites and invests students.
- Motivate students to realize high academic and social standards.
- Build an ongoing partnership with families for their children's academic success.
- Exemplify LPA's core values in all interactions with students, families, and colleagues.

Professional learning, development and growth:

- Collaborate with school leaders and teachers to improve instruction and develop school culture. Encourage innovation, creativity, and social responsibility.
- Refine instructional knowledge and skills, engage in data analysis, and refine the school's curriculum.
- Utilize data analysis protocol
- Attend all professional development, team planning, and data analysis meetings.
- Participate in Professional Learning Institute as both a leader and collaborator.
- Inquire about innovative teaching practices and models.

Qualifications:

- A passionate belief in LPA's mission, values, and educational model
- Missouri Teaching Certificate in content area
- A bachelor's degree
- Current authorization to work in the United States

Experience:

Experienced teaching candidates must demonstrate a track record of exceptional student performance, while candidates without teaching experience will be evaluated based on past leadership experience, participation in extracurricular programs, academic performance, and commitment to personal and professional growth.

Knowledge, Abilities and Attributes:

- Ability to meet the needs of students learning at widely varied levels
- Ability to employ inquiry-based teaching strategies
- Ability to encourage and develop both divergent and convergent thinking in students
- Ability to develop critical thinking skills in students
- Ability to apply empirical principles and procedures
- Ability to analyze student achievement data and utilize it to drive instruction
- Ability to establish and maintain cooperative relationships with all stakeholders
- Knowledge of Balanced Literacy, Singapore Math, Project-Based/Problem-Based Learning, Inquiry Learning, Culturally Responsive Pedagogy, Backwards Planning
- Bilingual/biliterate preferred
- A strong love for teaching
- A desire to work with a diverse student population
- A willingness to do whatever it takes to ensure that every child succeeds
- Ability to demonstrate loving care for students and their futures yet also a firm personality and belief in a high level of structure.
- A strong commitment to assessment and accountability.

Physical Demands:

While performing the duties and responsibilities of this job, the employee is regularly required to talk and hear, stand, move and walk at a brisk pace, sit, and use hands and arms to handle, feel and reach. The ability to accompany students anywhere on school premises. The employee is occasionally required to stoop or kneel and occasionally lift and move up to 50 pounds. Regular attendance on the job is expected and necessary. Additionally, the employee must be physically able to implement all BOE policies, District procedures and to perform Non-Violent Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) training and techniques. The employee must be physically able to react and intervene quickly during crisis situations, such as but not limited to the following circumstances: emergency drills, student elopement, physical altercations involving students.

Reports To:

Lafayette Preparatory Academy Head of School