



LAFAYETTE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

St. Louis, MO | Est. 2013

Teacher Assistant

Elementary and Middle School

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.

Teacher Assistants will participate in a week-long on-boarding process during their first year at LPA that will begin mid-July. Each subsequent year, teacher assistants (along with all LPA staff) will 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 basic math facts, phonemic awareness and handwriting.) 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.



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Specific Responsibilities:

Classroom Support- The teacher assistant will work with classroom teachers to provide support and continuing instruction to individuals or small groups. Tasks may include intervention groups, motor groups and recess monitoring.

Aftercare- LPA runs an on-site aftercare program for students in elementary and middle school. The teacher assistant will work in conjunction with other employees to monitor and supervise groups of children during the aftercare hours (3:00-4:30). During this time, the teacher assistant will develop opportunities for free and structured play, interact with the children often, ensure children are supervised in a safe, caring environment and provide and assist with development of their enrichment activities.

Communication and Social Media- The teacher assistant will spend part of his/her/their day assisting the Head of School (and/or her designee) with documentation of student learning and/or activities as well as general public communication.

Academic Achievement and student character development:

- Support and reinforce instruction
- Co-teach under the guidance of the teacher, as needed
- Offer individual or small group instruction, as needed
- Encourage innovation, creativity, and social responsibility
- Assist students with physical or behavioral needs, during transitions
- Provide behavioral support, as needed
- Prepare materials and equipment
- Supervise students during lunch, recess, and instructional times
- Analyze effectiveness of instruction through reflection on teaching practices
- Create a positive, achievement-oriented and structured learning environment that excites and invests students
- Motivate students to realize high academic and behavioral standards
- Build classroom community by working with families to become invested in 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
- Refine instructional knowledge and skills and engage in data analysis
- Attend all professional development, team planning, and data analysis meetings as aligned to students you support



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Qualifications:

- A passionate belief in LPA's mission, values, and educational model
- Current authorization to work in the United States
- High School Diploma or its equivalent
- One (1) year experience, preferred
- Excellent integrity and good moral character and initiative
- Ability to communicate effectively in English
- Proof of U. S. citizenship or legal resident alien status
- Satisfactory completion of a background check and Family Care and Safety check, demonstrating results that meet the guidelines for employment at Lafayette Preparatory Academy
- A minimum of 60 semester hours of college credit with a certified transcript on file or have taken and passed the ParaPro Assessment

Experience:

- Demonstrated commitment to supporting elementary and/or middle-aged students

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.



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Environmental Demands:

The environmental demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential responsibilities and functions of the job and are not meant to be all-inclusive.

- Exposure to a variety of childhood and adult diseases and illnesses.
- Occasional exposure to a variety of weather conditions.
- Exposure to heated/air conditioned and ventilated facilities.
- Exposure to a building in which a variety of chemical substances are used for cleaning, instruction, and/or operation of equipment.
- Function in a workplace that is usually moderately quiet but that can be noisy at times.

Reports To:

Lafayette Preparatory Academy Instructional Coach