Preschool Associate Teacher

The Philadelphia School (TPS) is seeking a full-time Preschool Associate Teacher for the 2020-2021 academic year. We are a Preschool - 8 progressive, independent school located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with an enrollment of 475 students. Since our founding in 1972, The Philadelphia School has grown in size, complexity, and diversity. This growth has been rooted firmly in the progressive values with which our founders began: immersive learning, responsive pedagogy, and meaningful engagement with the world. The Philadelphia School seeks educators with a deep interest in social justice and a commitment to personal and professional growth.

Core Values/Characteristics:
- Relational
- Developmental Perspective
- Innovative Stance
- Constructivist Approach

Position Summary:
Associate teachers play an important and collaborative role in the classroom. They work directly with students, classroom teachers, and specialists to plan and support implementation of the curricula. Our early childhood center was designed specifically for our youngest students. It has light-filled classrooms, direct access to a large, nature-based play yard, raised garden beds, a kitchen, studio space, and an adjacent multipurpose building. There are two lead teachers (co-teachers) and an associate teacher in each preschool classroom. The role of the associate is intended to provide additional support to teachers, children and family, while the associate builds their own capacity as an early childhood educator with the support of the lead teachers. Our early childhood program is play and project based, so we are looking for a flexible, creative educator who seeks to learn the developmental needs of 4 and 5 year olds. We are looking for someone with strong interpersonal and communication skills. Experiences in environmental and outdoor education, Responsive Classroom, The Project Approach, art, drama, and gardening are all a plus. All of our teachers bring a rich range of interests and expertise to their work. We seek to hire someone who will bring their own set of complementary experiences and expertise to add depth and dimension to the teaching team.

Responsibilities:
- Collaborate with other teachers, the learning resource team, and specialists to meet the needs of diverse learners and to develop an engaging thematic curriculum
- Build respectful and supportive relationships with students
• Deliver progressive and intentional instruction with the mentoring of lead teachers
• Develop strong home-school partnerships and support lead teachers in communicating with families clearly, frequently, and with cultural sensitivity
• Support lead teachers in planning, preparation, and instruction
• Participate in school wide initiatives
• Engage in ongoing professional development and growth

Qualifications:

• BA required. Preference given to those who have experience working with younger learners and have completed coursework in a related field of study
• An interest in progressive philosophy and teaching methods
• Growing understanding of child development, including the social, emotional, and intellectual domains
• An understanding of or strong desire to learn how to create a warm, nurturing, and supportive classroom for young children
• Familiarity with or interest in some of our core resources and methodologies: Responsive Classroom, the Project Approach, Reggio philosophies
• Strong interpersonal and communication skills at both parent and student levels
• Passion for instilling in children a lifelong love of learning

Application Process:
Qualified candidates should send a letter of interest, resume, and statement of educational philosophy to employment@tpschool.org. Candidates from diverse backgrounds and/or who have experience in cultural competency work are strongly encouraged to apply.

The Philadelphia School welcomes and celebrates diversity in our student body and in our faculty, and is committed to providing an education for all of our children that instills in them a respect, understanding and appreciation for the many races, cultures, religions, family structures, and ethnicities that make up our complex and diverse world.