Micro School Educator (6th Grade)

General Position and Organization Description:

This is not an ordinary “teacher” role, and this is not an ordinary school. Embark Education is a micro-school embedded in two small businesses in North Denver that supports students to courageously inquire, engage, and discover a sense of self. Our vision is for all members of our community to learn courageously. Embark is built upon three design pillars- Embedded, Integrated and Learner Centered.

At Embark, we think of Pinwheel Coffee, Framework Cycles, our “Learning hubs” and the greater Denver area as our classroom; curriculum and learning are and will be integrated regularly into the shop operations. Learning is rigorous, but relevant to the work in the shops and students should never be left asking “why am I learning this?” Researching world history, geography and climate will be a part of ordering and understanding where the beans for the coffee shop are sourced. Physics experiments will be interlaced with repairing bike gears, etc. This is not a role of a traditional teacher and even the use of the title “Educator” is only relevant if you go to the Latin root “Educo,” meaning to draw out from what is already inside. The micro-school is learner centered and often self-directed learning environment and the role of the adults is to cultivate an environment where deep learning and exploration can occur.

The 6th grade position will be new for the 20/21 school year but a crucial role in our middle school ecosystem. Embark launched with 7th and 8th grade during the 19/20 school year. The 6th grade position will be a generalist with the ability to integrate learning from all subjects and embed them into developmentally appropriate opportunities within the businesses. They should be passionate about students, families, education (and educational change). The right candidate holds relationships at the center while embodying an entrepreneurial spirit of a founding educator.

Embark Education is a project of Great Work, Inc. a non-profit with a non-traditional work environment. As an organization, we are passionate about education, innovation and are dedicated to pioneering, enhancing and supporting education environments worldwide through professional development, piloting programs and projects, community outreach and engagement. As a culture, we are fluid and responsive to the changing landscape of those we serve. As team members, our roles have a focus area, but we also fill in where needed in support of the initiatives, projects and overall goals of the organization. While this job description is the backbone of this role’s work within the organization, all GWI staff regularly have responsibilities and tasks within other projects as skillsets and expertise are needed.

The education team is made up of dynamic individuals, steeped in understanding youth development, passionate about respecting and working with and alongside adolescents, and able to give students real leadership while still being accountable for measurable academics.

We know it’s a big ask and a non-traditional environment, but for the right candidate it will be the most fulfilling, inspiring and impactful educator role.

The ideal candidate will have/be...

- a passion for our mission
- entrepreneurial acumen
- curriculum development experience
- an understanding of competency based feedback and evaluation
- a team player
- experience in non-traditional education environments
- experience working with youth
- attention to detail
- able to seamlessly incorporate the words “aardvark” and “cornucopia” into a well-crafted cover letter (yes, we’re serious)
- computer competence with: Word, Excel, Outlook, Power Point Google Docs, and basic office software.
- a willingness to question convention, to experiment and to take risks, balanced with an organized approach to managing details.
- a sense of humor
- the ability to thrive in a self-motivated, challenging and demanding role that will have varied and sometimes extended hours.
- a BA or equivalent combination of a degree and relevant experience.

Our expectations are high, our strategic plan is ambitious and our staff must be up for a challenge, but if you’re still reading and interested, you might be a good fit.

Please email an interesting (meaning, not, stock, boring or typical) cover letter and your resume to admin@embarkeducation.org. In order to ensure we are able to review your submission, please include your name and the position title in the subject line.