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Teaching at Little River Community School

Little River Community School, founded in 1999, is a K-12 democratic school with 35 students located at Birdsfoot Farm in Canton, New York. We have an anticipated opening for a full-time teacher to work with us in our Youngers program. We will have about eight students in grades K-2 in the Youngers room.

We are looking for a teacher with at least several years of experience working with children and an interest in democratic education. In addition to teaching basic academic and social skills to the Youngers, the teacher may be asked to share special interests like art, music, other languages, or computer science with students in the Middles or Olders rooms. It is important to be comfortable with all ages, K-12, though this position is primarily working with the Youngers. Teacher certification is not required.

Our ideal candidate would plan to stay with the school for several or more years. Qualities we are looking for include a passion for working with children, flexibility, patience, ability to think on your feet, long-term interest in teaching, problem-solving abilities, strong communication skills, reliability, behavior management skills, a sense of humor, confidence, and self-motivation.

For next year, the staff includes Elena Pignone (Middles and Spanish), Leon Sawyko (science and Olders), Steve Molnar (Olders and special classes), Nuala Woods (Middles), and Ola Aldous (Olders art and PE).

Little River provides a unique environment where students are trusted and seen as inherently self-motivated to learn about their world. Our teachers facilitate and support the student's quest for knowledge and understanding. Little River has multi-age classrooms where students learn together in cooperation and are grouped by their abilities and interests. Little River provides strong academic classes in a small group setting. Some academic and special classes may have all the Youngers, and others only three or four. The teacher needs to generate excitement and interest with the students. Special emphasis is put on problem-solving skills and hands-on experiences.

All of the students and teachers come together several times a week in a morning meeting, facilitated by the students, for discussion, to make plans, and solve problems. Youngers have two breaks each day for unstructured play. Many of those sessions are spent outside. Each student has an individualized curriculum developed by the student,

teachers, and parents. Visit us on the web at www.littleriverschool.org for more information about the school.

Teachers are on-site from 7:30 am - 2:30 pm. After school hours, the teachers have a weekly staff meeting, do class preparations, and may be asked to do some administrative tasks. In the fall, we have conferences with each family to make an individualized curriculum for each student. There are all-school meetings every six weeks with the students, parents, and teachers.

Little River follows the local school district's calendar for holidays and snow days. Our final day is just before Memorial Day weekend. There are no classes during the summer months. The staff shares some minimal responsibilities in June and July and we use the month of August for training, preparation, and team building. The starting date is August 6th.

The teacher's salary is \$31,300 a year (first year) with benefits including free tuition for a teacher's child, a health fund, and a supportive environment with a lot of academic freedom. There may be housing options at Birdsfoot Farm.

If this sounds like the job for you, please complete an application.

Application Process

We are accepting applications until the position is filled.

To apply for the position, fill out and return the application (below). Be sure to include a resume and three references. Please e-mail your completed application to steve@littleriverschool.org.

Teachers, parents, and students are involved in the selection process. Promising teacher candidates will be invited to do an activity with the students, meet with staff, and then interview with the families.

Please call if you have any questions about the school or the process.



Teacher Job Description

A full-time teacher at Little River Community School is responsible for and expected to:

Work with students of all ages

Assess the academic and social needs of each student

Develop and implement an individualized curriculum in cooperation with the student, parent(s), and teachers, for each student

Prepare and teach academic and special classes

Facilitate problem-solving with students, parents, and staff

Be on-site at school during all school hours and while students arrive and depart before and after school.

Attend all regular and special staff meetings

Attend all regular and special parent and student meetings

Attend special activities with students like overnights and field trips

Be available for individual parent meetings and conferences as needed

Maintain the appropriate student and administrative records

Maintain the confidentiality of each student and family

Share committee work with other staff including outreach, fundraising, and maintenance

Share some administrative tasks



Teacher Application

Please answer the following questions.

- 1) Why do you want to teach at Little River Community School?
- 2) Describe your philosophy of education.
- 3) What experience do you have working with children?
- 4) What personal strengths can you bring to the school?
- 5) What would you like to learn with this experience or what special challenges might this experience present you?
- 6) How do you approach issues of classroom management and discipline with children?
- 7) What is your approach to teaching basic academic skills? Do you have any experience with teaching reading, writing, math, or social skills? If so, please describe.
- 8) How can you help children learn problem-solving skills?
- 9) Is there anything else you would like to share about yourself?
- 10) At Little River the pay is less than the public school and the role of teacher requires a lot of time and energy. Are you up to this? How long could you see yourself working at Little River?
- 11) Please list three references that we may contact. Include name, address, phone number, and the context in which they know you or your work. Also, enclose a copy of your resume.