

MakerSpace Teacher

Confluence Charter Academies seeks an educator to join our PreK-6 grade north city school faculty campus for the 2015-2016 school year as a full-time MakerSpace teacher.

Confluence Charter Academies began the Makerspace movement in the St. Louis area at our Grand Center Arts Academy and now has opportunities to expand this concept at our north city campus. Beginning in 2015-16 our north city campus will move toward a model of innovation with; 1:1 chromebook classrooms, makerspace, design thinking classes, etc. This position will play a key leadership role in that innovation journey. We are committed to strengthening and enriching student learning through innovative teaching methods that put the student and his or her own goals for the future at the center of all learning experiences, and empower students to identify and solve problems, bridge content across traditional “subject” domains, and develop an unshakable growth mindset. **We define “innovation”** as mindsets, design processes, and teaching practices that challenge traditional norms and assumptions. These can take the form of new strategies or iterations or remixes of existing strategies.

We seek a listener and risk-taker to lead and support innovative teaching and learning in our school. This role is an exciting opportunity for a teacher who values curriculum design, the maker movement, hands-on learning and understands the importance of a personalized and engaging curriculum for elementary aged children. Working with a team of teachers and our resource team, this teacher will design his/her classroom environment and program to create a program that allows for creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. The program will be authentic and meaningful and build character in our students.

Specific responsibilities associated with this position include:

- Provide inspiration and support for faculty and students in developing and implementing new innovative learning opportunities. Connect with teachers individually to support each teacher’s innovation growth from their own starting point and at their own pace. Publicly celebrate attempts, successes, and failures in new endeavors.
- Support development of a community-wide common language around innovation, including faculty, students, families, and local community. Reach out to “outside” community to collaborate and form partnerships.
- Create safe physical and emotional spaces for teachers to explore and develop innovative learning opportunities. Support a cultural shift towards more collaboration and less competition among faculty.
- Build capacity of faculty and students to independently investigate and design new innovations. Act as a multiplier of faculty and student strengths.

- Broker relationships between disparate groups both within and outside the school community. Foster ties between groups with different expertise and daily experience to encourage cross-pollination and boundary-crossing.
- Collect data and track innovation growth throughout the school to support connections, monitor patterns, and provide example cases to others. Data might consist of qualitative project examples and specific feedback from teachers, students, and families, as well as quantitative numbers of students served and events held.
- Establish long-term and quarterly goals for innovation growth milestones within the community. Meet with education administration team at least once per quarter to share data on innovation growth and solicit feedback for continued progress.

The ideal candidate will:

- Varied professional experience, both in classroom settings and outside of schools. Former entrepreneurs encouraged, having demonstrated ability to independently develop professional connections and skills.
- Demonstrated expertise in listening and understanding needs, as well as in introducing new ideas without forcefulness.
- Demonstrated reflection upon and learning from failures. Examples will be requested.
- Demonstrated perseverance, resilience, and comfort with ambiguity. Examples will be requested.
- Enjoy spending time with 5-12 year olds
- Be flexible, visionary and hard-working
- Have strong communication skills with parents and children
- Demonstrate understanding of the educational and social development of children in this age-group
- Exhibit a passion for developing, implementing and improving curricula that is informed by best practice and experience
- Have knowledge or demonstrable willingness to use diverse materials to create like wood, cardboard, styrofoam, paper mache, metal, programming, etc...
- Understand that the role of the MakerSpace teacher will be as a facilitator and champion for learning, and the ability to be comfortable not having all the answers. Interested in utilizing online sources like YouTube, Khan Academy, Pinterest and Twitter to connect students to passionate, knowledgeable people worldwide.

To Apply: