



# WISSAHICKON CHARTER SCHOOL

## **Environmental Educator (Discovery Teacher) - Fernhill Campus**

Wissahickon Charter School (WCS) is seeking a passionate environmental education teacher for grades K-8. The internal title for the environmental educator position is Discovery Teacher. The Discovery Teacher plays an instrumental role towards accomplishing one component of the school's mission: instilling students with a respect and love of nature and the environment. In addition to teaching hands-on, experiential indoor and outdoor classes at least three out of five days per week, the Discovery teacher plans, organizes and attends several off-site overnight trips with students and maintains and expands partnerships with external organizations. The candidate must be able to spend up to 5 weeks' time (not consecutive) off site with students over the course of 10 months. S/he also plays a role (with students) in growing the school garden. S/he must be committed to the belief that all students can benefit from environmental education, and must be relentless in her/his efforts to address the wide range of learning styles, needs and interests of WCS students. This is an outstanding opportunity to develop the academic and social emotional growth of students from across the city of Philadelphia.

### **Key Responsibilities**

- Regularly meet with grade teachers to co-plan and implement yearlong Sustainable Environmental Curriculum (SEC) and Common Core aligned science curriculum.
- Continuously communicate with teachers during the school year to ensure integration between learning taking place in the classroom and in Discovery.
- Adapt the existing environmental & science curricula to best meet teachers' and students' unique needs, and develop and implement lesson plans based on the curriculum.
- Deliver hands-on instruction across K-8 that meets the developmental needs of students.
- Plan, schedule, organize and lead a number of off-site trips, including but not limited to: monthly hikes with 4<sup>th</sup> graders, outdoor trips for 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades with pre-established partner programs, and school-designed trips with 7<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Secure sites, transportation, chaperones, and student paperwork and prepare equipment for off-site trips that are not managed by an external program (e.g. 7<sup>th</sup> grade trip).
- Maintain existing partnerships with external organizations & expand partnerships as logical.
- Establish and maintain a learning environment that excites, invests, and motivates students to achieve academic and behavioral expectations
- Work collaboratively with grade teams, learning specialists, teaching assistants, and other staff to support student growth
- Build classroom community through the development of CARES values (CARES stands for Cooperation, Academic Excellence & Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy and Self-Control)
- Consistently implement WCS' student management practices within the classroom and throughout school
- Exemplify WCS' CARES values in all interactions with students, families and colleagues
- Establish and maintain relationships with families through regular communication, updates and opportunities for involvement
- Participate in all professional development, team planning and data analysis meetings
- Assume other duties as assigned by the administrative team



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## **Qualifications**

- Bachelor's degree required; Master's degree in related field preferred
- PA teacher certification preferred but not required
- Environmental education teaching experience; in an urban setting highly preferred
- Deep knowledge of sustainable environmental curricula and best practices, and a personal commitment to environmental education.
- Able and eager to spend up to 5 weeks' time off site (not consecutive, but including at least one week-long trip and several 2-3 day trips) with students over the course of 12 months
- Strong instructional and classroom management skills
- Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate with individuals at all levels of the organization; including students, families, teachers, administration and external partners
- Flexible and capable of making adjustments in both day-to-day and larger-scale activities based on new information and situations
- High level of personal organization, planning, and follow-through with the ability to prioritize and manage competing tasks and demands
- Receptiveness to feedback, positive attitude, and a desire to continuously improve
- Collaborative work style; including maturity, humility, and a sense of humor
- Knowledge of Pennsylvania and Common Core Standards
- Familiarity/experience with *Responsive Classroom / Developmental Designs* approach a plus
- Belief in Wissahickon Charter Schools' mission and environmental education model, and the belief that all children can learn and succeed

## **About Wissahickon Charter School**

Wissahickon Charter School's first campus, Fernhill, opened in 2002 and serves 480 K-8 students from across Philadelphia. Our second K-8 campus, Awbury, opened in the fall of 2014. The mission of Wissahickon Charter School (WCS) is to provide a community of learning that stimulates and builds the child's intellectual, social, and character development. Wissahickon Charter Schools are planned around three essential elements: 1) an environmental focus that allows students to experience the curriculum, 2) recognition of service learning projects as key in students' success, and 3) an emphasis on parents as partners in the learning experiences of their children.

## **How to Apply**

To be considered, please send the following to [rbenarroch@wissahickoncharter.org](mailto:rbenarroch@wissahickoncharter.org). Please indicate "Discovery Teacher" in the subject line.

1. Cover letter indicating your grade preference and why you would be a great fit for the position and Wissahickon Charter School
2. Resume

*Wissahickon Charter School is committed to hiring a diverse staff and encourages those from traditionally under-represented backgrounds to apply. Wissahickon Charter School does not discriminate in hiring or employment, or in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, or other programs.*