

Spacious Skies Charter School

Job Description: K-3 Grade Teachers

Who We Are and What We Value:

Mission: **Spacious Skies, a project-based learning school, guarantees each child a quality education by providing joyful and challenging learning experiences in a safe and caring environment.**

Vision: **All students empowered to fulfill their responsibilities and dreams.**

The Spacious Skies board believes that education is a human enterprise and as such we are committed to serving students as they find meaning and purpose in their learning. Inspired by the Finnish school system, Spacious Skies will provide excellence in education by operationalizing four design principles:

- ***Enduring reverence for children and childhood*** - We recognize childhood as a stage in development and believe it should not be rushed. Students at Spacious Skies are immersed in developmentally appropriate programs and lessons when taking into consideration age, interest, and ability.
- ***Steadfast respect for parents as educational partners*** – We look at families through a strengths-based lens and demonstrate empathy and understanding in all our interactions. We partner with families in meaningful ways that serve to enhance students’ educational experiences and ensure their success.
- ***Profound trust in teachers as professionals*** – Teachers at Spacious Skies work collaboratively and purposefully toward increased student learning and school improvement. Teachers are leaders of improved instruction and are designers of curriculum and lessons.
- ***Deep understanding of how children learn*** – We are dedicated to ongoing study of children and how they learn. We employ methods that are appropriate for children and the content.

Spacious Skies Charter School (SSCS), a Project-Based Learning School, is located at the foot of Pikes Peak in beautiful Colorado Springs. With an anticipated inaugural student body of 246, SSCS serves students from Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Spacious Skies will add a grade each year until we reach capacity at 8th grade.

At Spacious Skies, we are concerned with students “developing a sense of curiosity, wonderment, and awe; creating, imagining and innovating; and becoming more metacognitive about what they are learning” (Costa & Kallick, 2008).

We view education as a partnership between the student, family, school, and community and seek professionals willing to invest in our pursuit of excellence. Our faculty enjoys a shared

leadership model wherein all staff members are encouraged to contribute ideas and incite positive change.

Spacious Skies is looking for committed, thoughtful, passionate problem solvers who are dedicated to working with children and families of the Pikes Peak region.

Does this strike a chord in you? If you embrace life-long learning, demonstrate maturity, and a collaborative approach to education, we invite you to apply.

Responsible To: Principal

Position Summary: Spacious Skies' founders have a strong, inspiring vision for teachers' work as indicated in our third design principle: *Profound trust in teachers as professionals*. Spacious Skies' teachers are planners, innovators, and leaders, and together they create learning opportunities for students that are simultaneously joyful and challenging. As such, the Teacher will engage students in work that matters, implement effective teaching methods to ensure student success, and collaborate to promote an exemplary educational program which fosters achievement for all students. The Teacher will develop and promote good community relations among community and school clientele. The Teacher will assist with other school programs as assigned and create a program and environment favorable to learning and personal growth in accordance with each student's ability. The Teacher will collaborate to design curriculum and lead instructional improvements in professional development activities that are meaningfully connected to teachers' work with students. The Teacher will work within a collaborative and accountable school system that inspires significant work and authentic learning for all.

Qualifications:

1. Bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year institution. Master's Degree preferred.
2. Hold a current, valid Colorado teaching license with appropriate endorsements or possess required credentials to teach in Colorado.
3. Experience in charter school programs preferred.
4. Proficient in use of technology.
5. Proficient in problem-solving and communication.
6. Demonstrated ability to exercise a high level of professionalism and discretion in both internal and external interactions. Ability to motivate a team and work as a team member. Ability to create and maintain good working relationships with a variety of internal and external constituents.

Responsibilities:

1. Ensure student academic, social, physical, and emotional growth and development
2. Plan, implement, and assess standards-based, interdisciplinary lessons that are developmentally appropriate, joyful and challenging
3. Plan, implement, and assess project-based learning curriculum and lessons

4. Use a variety of instructional strategies, such as inquiry, group discussion, lecture, discovery, etc.
5. Create classroom conditions for optimal learning that include immersion, student choice, and engagement.
6. Manage the classroom to effectively ensure that
 - constructive relationships are established
 - individual student needs are responded to
 - a positive and safe physical and emotional environment is maintained
 - an environment is created which encourages respect and understanding
 - the environment encourages purposeful work
7. Evaluate and maintain complete, accurate and up-to-date files regarding the students' academic progress, physical, social, and emotional growth, and communicate with parents/guardians and other stakeholders, as appropriate, on the progress and development of students.
8. Arrange and meet with parents/guardians to discuss the progress and development of the students as necessary and required.
9. Be a "kidwatcher" and "developmental sleuth" using observations to identify and plan for the learning needs of individuals and groups of students
10. Differentiate instruction to meet the learning needs of individual and groups of students
11. Use a variety of assessment techniques to plan for, monitor, and assess student learning.
12. Maintain a healthy, safe, and clean environment within the classroom and the school.
13. Develop and manage classroom resources.
14. Collaborate with colleagues to design lessons, evaluate students, teach lessons, and improve the school.
15. Attend school functions as required by administration for development of community.
16. Develop leadership capacity
17. Plan, implement, participate, and assess professional development opportunities
18. Study and reflect on teacher practice in all its components (pedagogy, assessment, curriculum development)
19. Bring forth a productive professional demeanor and model such for students.
20. Adhere to all school systems, protocols and policies.
21. Adhere to the SSCS Employee Handbook, professional practices, and school procedures as set forth by administration.
22. Maintain religious neutrality when teaching or engaged in activities with students. Adhere to Policy regarding teaching about religion and religious holidays.
23. Report suspected child abuse or neglect as required by law.
24. Support the educational and cultural life of the school, learning by example in supporting standards expected of all staff and students at the school.
25. Dress in a professional manner as specified in Policy.
26. Use the school's internet and E-mail system as specified in Policy.

Interested: Send Cover letter and resume to Dr. Evelyn Cortez-Ford at drevelyn@spaciouskies.org