

Spacious Skies Charter School

NOTICE OF POSITION AVAILABILITY

POSITION: Thinkering Lab Teacher

CATEGORY: Full-time and Non-Exempt

RESPONSIBLE TO: Principal

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 198, SSCS serves students from Kindergarten through 4th 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.

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 Thinkering Lab 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 Thinkering Lab Teacher will develop and promote good community relations among community and school clientele. The Thinkering Lab 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 Thinkering Lab Teacher will collaborate to design curriculum and lead instructional improvements in professional development activities that are meaningfully connected to teachers’ work with students. The Thinkering Lab Teacher will work within a collaborative and accountable school system that inspires significant work and authentic learning for all.

In SSCS’s one-of-a-kind Thinkering Lab, students take on the role of scientist, mathematician, designer, engineer, architect, artist, inventor, and author as they work their way through problems that promote deeper thinking, reflection, and the application of STEAM knowledge and skills. SSCS’s Thinkering Lab is an expanded vision

of a makerspace where students (and at times, families) engage in integrated, real-world, inquiry-based STEAM lessons.

The Thinkering Lab Teacher will facilitate and further enhance Spacious Skies' creative and innovative school environment by melding the diverse disciplines of math, science, art, technology, engineering, design, architecture and more. Using the engineering design process, the Thinkering Lab Teacher will assist, support, and encourage students as they learn new skills for developing ideas, experiencing success and failure, and making things in a highly collaborative setting.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Create and maintain a safe and engaging Thinkering Lab.
2. Create standards-based activities and lessons where students make, tinker, collaborate, innovate, and solve problems.
3. Support classroom teachers in technology integration.
4. Seek funds to support the Thinkering Lab.
5. Research, develop and innovate maker activities.
6. Work one on one with students or in groups to ideate, prototype and present projects.
7. Plan for multiple opportunities for English Learners to collaborate with their peers and develop their academic language.
8. Collaborate with classroom teachers to coordinate Thinkering Lab experiences with integrating cross-curricular lesson extensions that can be implemented in the classroom.
9. Participate in curriculum development.
10. Model, foster and inspire a growth mindset within the classroom.
11. Deliver instruction and guide K-4 students while in the Thinkering Lab.
12. Assist in coordinating school-wide learning in the Thinkering Lab including professional development, implementation, and training staff.
13. Inventory and maintain all MakerSpace materials, tools and equipment, including hardware and software.
14. Identify projects suitable for students K-4.
15. Provide technical support of project documentation (video, photo, blog/vlog, digital portfolio, social media).
16. Lead students in time-management and project planning skills.
17. Host Thinkering Lab Family events.

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.
7. Ability to create and maintain good working relationships with a variety of internal and external constituents.
8. Experience and/or strong interest in working with elementary school students.
9. Working knowledge of NGSS and the Colorado Academic Standards.
10. Skills with technology, engineering, design, science, art, and mathematics.
11. Knowledge of the engineering design process and growth mindset.
12. Strong classroom management skills.
13. Sincere motivation to work collaboratively with an energized, committed, and diverse team.
14. Strong willingness to learn.
15. Action oriented, entrepreneurial, adaptable, and innovative.
16. Highly organized.
17. Excellent interpersonal, written, oral, and computer skills.

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