

Faculty Opportunity



Austin Preparatory School

Reading, Massachusetts

Teaching and Learning Specialist

Application Deadline: February 28, 2020

For a position to begin in the fall of 2020, Austin Prep seeks an experienced educator to marshal the resources to empower students with learning differences to succeed. The Teaching and Learning Specialist (TLS) provides oversight of the cohort of students with documented learning differences. He/She will assure that the teachers, students, and parents of that cohort are meeting the accommodations needed for those students. Additionally, the TLS will train the faculty – individually and as a whole – in best practices in the implementation of specific accommodations.

AUSTIN PREPARATORY SCHOOL AT A GLANCE

Since Austin Preparatory School opened its doors nearly 60 years ago, it has remained steadfast in its mission to inspire hearts to unite, minds to inquire, and hands to serve. In the tradition of St. Augustine of Hippo (the school's namesake), an Austin Prep education emphasizes the importance of a life in service of others, supported by the pursuit of academic excellence in the liberal arts tradition within a welcoming and close-knit community.



A coeducational institution since 1993, Austin Prep now serves 750 students in grades 6 through 12 from Reading, MA, and neighboring communities Northeast of Boston. The Middle School currently enrolls 170 students. The Upper School enrolls 580 ninth through twelfth graders in a rigorous college preparatory program that guides its students toward becoming lifelong learners and engaged citizens.

An independent Roman Catholic school, Austin Prep is a proud member of the Augustinian Secondary Educational Association (ASEA). Originally founded by the Augustinian Friars, the Augustinian ethos and traditions form a significant part of student life. Each day begins and ends with prayer, and faculty work hard to model the school's values in their teaching and in the relationships they form with students. St. Augustine valued the role of community in spiritual life, and this emphasis is clearly borne out in the close bonds students, parents, and alumni cite as characteristic of their experience at Austin Prep.



MISSION: Austin Prep’s mission is to inspire hearts to unite, minds to inquire, and hands to serve. St. Augustine is the School’s patron saint, and the school strives toward the Augustinian ideal of: “One mind, one heart, intent upon God” in the Augustinian charisms of veritas, unitas, and caritas – truth, unity, and love – inspire the mission.

ACCREDITATION, MEMBERSHIPS, AND AFFILIATIONS:

- New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
- Augustinian Secondary Educational Association (ASEA)
- National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA)
- Association of Independent Schools of New England (AISNE)
- New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS)

ENROLLMENT AND FINANCIAL AID: Austin Prep’s 750 students hail from 65 communities throughout Northeast Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire. The school also enrolls international students from China, South Korea and Italy. Tuition for the 2020-2021 school year is \$24,100, and nearly a third of students receive financial aid. Students benefit from both need-based aid and academic merit scholarships, which includes the St. Augustine Scholarship, which is a merit-based award given to a limited number of freshmen each year.

FACULTY AND STAFF: Austin Prep’s low student-teacher ratio (10:1) enables the formation of the close ties between students and teachers that many alumni name as a highlight of the experience at the school. Fifty of Austin Prep’s approximately 75 faculty members hold advanced degrees, and there are ample professional development funds available for continuing education. The faculty is notable for its solidarity and its commitment to the institution. The faculty have an average tenure of 16 years at Austin Prep.

CAMPUS: Austin Preparatory School's 50-acre campus sits in Reading, Massachusetts, 15 miles north of Boston at the intersection of Interstates 95 and 93. The spacious, wooded surroundings contribute to the school's warm and nurturing environment.

McLaughlin Hall is the primary academic building. It comprises the Technology Center, the McCarthy Writing Center, counseling and administrative offices, classrooms, science labs, the Chapel of St. Augustine, the Fr. Smith Library and Media Center, and a newly renovated Dining Hall. Saint Augustine Hall contains conference rooms, the music and arts wings, the Murphy Art Gallery, and external affairs and facilities offices.

In October of 2019, the school broke ground on a new athletic complex, which will include six new tennis courts and new synthetic turf baseball and soccer fields to replace existing grass fields. Additional facilities include the Athletic Stadium Complex, which offers a turf field, a state-of-the-art track, seating for 1,100, and a university-level scoreboard. Meelia Hall is home to the gymnasium, the Nelson Athletic Fitness & Training room, and Meelia Theatre.



ADVISORY PROGRAM: Austin Prep views its advisory program as fundamental to student achievement, and it is often cited by parents and students as one of the school's signature strengths. Austin Prep's three-pillared approach, which combines academic advising, emotional and social counseling, and college counselling, enables students to develop confidence interacting

with peers and teachers and to make wise and thoughtful choices in their academic and personal lives. Integrated with the life of the school, the advisory program provides consistency throughout students' time at Austin Prep and encourages students to make the most of the ample opportunities offered by the school.



A LIBERAL ARTS ACADEMIC PROGRAM: Austin Preparatory School educates students in Grades 6 to 12. Coursework encourages students to consider different points of view, cultures and backgrounds in an environment committed to valuing all community members. Choice and voice are integral to the student experience. The robust curriculum is tailored to capitalize on students' natural curiosity about the world and their place within it. Individualized academic programs allow students to find purpose and balance in their learning.

Students take courses in Theology, English, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, World Language, and Art and Design. For more information regarding the academic program at Austin Preparatory School, including details regarding the curriculum, please visit the school's website: www.austinprep.org/academics.

TEACHING AND LEARNING SPECIALIST PRIMARY FUNCTIONS:

- Oversees caseload of those Austin Prep students who have documented learning differences, including review of IEP, 504 plans, and neuropsych testing.
- Creates accommodation plan summaries for each of those students which will be shared with teachers, advisors, students, and parents.
- Provides professional development opportunities for teachers
- Communicates with parents of students in her/his caseload.
- Contribute to a "parent education" series of presentations.
- Oversees accommodation requests for standard testing, including but not limited to SAT and ACT.
- Attends and actively participates at Student Success meetings with other administrators.
- Collaborates with the Office of Admissions to review prospective student accommodation plans and counsel families through their transition to Austin.
- Work with the Office of College Counseling to evaluate schools that have appropriate services at the collegiate level to support graduating students
- Serves on the Academic Board.
- Support the school and its leadership in advancing the mission of Austin Prep.

WHO SHOULD APPLY? The Teaching and Learning Specialist position at Austin Prep is a newer position that grew out of the school's long-term strategic plan. The opportunity demands a dynamic individual who is well-versed in interpreting educational and neuro psych documents and accommodation plans and is enthused to collaborate with administrators, faculty, parents, and students in maximizing each student's academic success. As an instructional leader and resource for faculty members, this individual has the opportunity to be instrumental in guiding conversations about how Austin Prep educates its students and empowers all to succeed.

The ideal candidate will:

- Model the School's mission to inspire hearts to unite, minds to inquire, and hands to serve
- Build content-specific knowledge to construct appropriate learning opportunities for students
- Implement creative instructional strategies to involve students in meaningful learning experiences
- Be familiar with a range of assessment tools to allow students to demonstrate mastery of content and skills in different ways
- Be knowledgeable about successful academic achievement and positive social-emotional development
- Cultivate mutual trust and belonging among students and colleagues
- Apply assessment data to make sound decisions to expand students' proficiencies and comprehension
- Create and share educational research and related projects with colleagues
- Contribute to the teaching profession through participation in local, regional and national organizations and associations
- Join school planning committees to advance strategic initiatives and emerging priorities
- Attend conferences, seminars and workshops to advance professional expertise and to learn about professional trends and best practices
- Model and encourage community engagement, service to others, and advancement of the School's mission throughout the broader community



Austin Prep seeks a candidate with at least three years of experience working directly in schools, preferably in a position that required the writing and oversight of accommodation plans and training on the same. The candidate's educational background is rooted in Special Education or a related field. A bachelor's degree is required; however, a master's or above is preferred.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to Mr. Michael McLaughlin, Head of Middle School, at mmclaughlin@austinprep.org.