

# Faculty Opportunity



## Austin Preparatory School

*Reading, Massachusetts*

### Upper School Science Teacher

**Application Deadline: March 20, 2020**

For a position to begin in the fall of 2020, Austin Prep seeks a dynamic, collaborative, thoughtful Upper School Science Teacher whose engagement with the sciences is palpable and energizes student learners. The school is looking for an experienced instructor who will work to develop students' core knowledge base and guide them in applying concepts through laboratory work on and off campus.

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## 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)

**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:** The Upper School academic program shapes students in their growth as collaborative scholars, compassionate servant-leaders, and passionate global citizens.

Coursework encourages students to consider different points of view, cultures and backgrounds in an environment committed to valuing all community members. 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. Opportunities to increase knowledge and practice skills seamlessly combine tradition with modernization to ensure that students are well-prepared for our 21<sup>st</sup> Century world.

Students pursue a well-rounded curriculum which includes coursework in Theology, English, Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, World Language, and Art and Design. Choice and voice are integral to the student experience with elective offerings in all departments to capitalize on student interest.

Courses are classified as one of three levels: College Preparatory, Honors, or Advanced Placement. College Prep courses are designed to push students to develop an understanding of the content and skills necessary to be successful in college and beyond. Honors courses encourage students to develop a deeper, nuanced understanding of the content and skills necessary to be successful in college and beyond.

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](http://www.austinprep.org/academics).

**UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE:** The fourth floor of McLaughlin Hall is a hub of scientific exploration, experimentation, and collaboration at Austin Prep. Laboratory space for life and physical sciences provide the setting for students to observe processes and analyze results that reinforce material learned in the classroom setting. Partnerships with area research labs, aquariums, zoos, and conversation space bring students out into the real world and assume the role of citizen scientists, applying lessons learned at Austin Prep in contributing to on-going scientific discovery.

Students begin their Upper School program with coursework in Biology. This lab-based course introduces students to topics like biochemistry, cellular biology, genetics, evolution, viruses, and organismal biology. Building off students' work in advanced mathematical concepts and their freshman coursework on scientific inquiry, sophomore students study chemistry. Students explore the properties and interactivity of matter through demonstration and experimentation in a laboratory setting promoting students' growth as systematic thinkers.

Junior and senior students pursue an individualized program of study with a number of year-long, semester, and Advanced Placement electives in biological, physical, and integrated sciences.

Inquiry-based lab experiments and problem-solving are at the root of the Physics class in which students explore the fundamental laws that determine the workings of the universe. For students interested in pursuing engineering or physical sciences in college, advanced coursework covers topics like kinematics, forces, momentum, mechanical waves and sound with an emphasis on in-depth mathematical relationships.

Elective offerings include diverse opportunities for specialized study: Astronomy, Environmental Science, Marine Science, Forensics, Anatomy and Physiology, Bioethics, Medical Microbiology, Biotechnology, Meteorology, and Oceanography. These course offerings draw heavily on concepts learned in chemistry and biology and serve to cultivate and sustain a life-long interest in the sciences and their application to understanding our world and being responsible stewards of it.

Advanced Placement courses capitalize on students' intense curiosity and well-developed independent study skills to expose students to the rigors of college-level scientific coursework. With an emphasis on learning through laboratory work, courses are predicated on a strong foundation in mathematical ability and the scientific process.

**WHO SHOULD APPLY?** The Science Department seeks a practiced educator with background in multiple science strands to join the Upper School Team. The position calls for a mission-driven educator with background in content, immersive laboratory work, and creating innovative opportunities for students to apply their classroom learning.

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
- Engage in responsive planning, acquiring skills to address students' needs through thoughtful preparation
- Implement creative instructional strategies to involve students in meaningful learning experiences
- Utilize a range of assessment tools to allow students to demonstrate mastery of content and skills in different ways
- Learn more 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 a strong educational background in the Sciences and a minimum of three years of Upper School teaching experience in at least two scientific domains.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to Mrs. Maria Blewitt, Science Chair, at [mblewitt@austinprep.org](mailto:mblewitt@austinprep.org)