



# St. Patrick's

EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

## **POSITION AVAILABLE BEGINNING IN FALL 2022:**

### **LOWER SCHOOL ART TEACHER**

*We invite potential candidates for this position to learn more about St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School by visiting our website at [www.stpatsdc.org](http://www.stpatsdc.org), including our Careers page under "Who We Are."*

### **ORGANIZATION**

St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School, located in the Palisades section of northwest Washington, D.C., is a parish day school enrolling approximately 500 students on two campuses. The program begins at the three-year-old Nursery level and continues through Grade 8. St. Patrick's students, whose families live throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, go on to a variety of fine schools—including local independent day schools, boarding schools largely in the Mid-Atlantic and New England and, less frequently, public schools—upon graduation.

Three academic divisions comprise St. Patrick's: Nursery School (3's, 4's, and young 5's), Lower School (Kindergarten-Grade 5), and Middle School (Grades 6-8). Students attend school on the Whitehaven Campus through Grade 5 and on the MacArthur Campus, about a half-mile away, for Middle School. We are currently seeking a *Lower School Art Teacher*, with a particular focus on the primary grades (Kindergarten-Grade 2). St. Patrick's is fortunate to have three fulltime art teachers teaching students in Kindergarten to Grade 8. Their current teaching responsibilities are grouped by grade level: Kindergarten-Grade 2; Grades 3-5; and Grades 6-8. Correspondingly, there are three well-appointed art studios for instruction. The *Art Teacher* reports to and is evaluated by the Head of Lower School.

Teachers arrive by 7:45 a.m. in order to set up classroom activities, prepare materials, confer with their colleagues, help with arrival carpool on a rotating basis and, in some instances, meet with students. At the end of the day, Special-Subject Teachers help manage the carpool process on a rotating basis until about 3:20 p.m. Teachers should then be available to work with students until 3:45 p.m.

Since March 2020, when St. Patrick's closed its campuses and deployed its Remote Learning Plan as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, teaching and learning has proceeded at the Day School in a fully virtual format (through the balance of the 2019-2020 school year), in a hybrid

format (during the 2020-2021 school year), and in a full-time, on-campus, in-person format (for the 2021-2022 school year). While it remains our hope and expectation that teaching and learning will remain on-campus and in-person—and candidates should recognize the expectation of full COVID-19 vaccination and an on-campus presence—we expect all teachers to have the skills necessary to provide both synchronous and asynchronous instruction in a virtual setting, should it become necessary.

## **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

The Lower School art program is designed to empower students with the skills of artists. Children are encouraged to explore and experiment as they develop confidence in their artistic abilities. Students are exposed to a broad range of materials and provided with opportunities to create art with a range of purposes. Trips to art museums support student engagement with art, and the work of every child enlivens our hallways. Activities develop children’s skills of observation and their awareness of the basic elements of art—line, shape, color, texture, value, and space. Art history and a working art vocabulary are introduced at every opportunity. Students apply critical-thinking skills to critique artwork and then use the information to improve their own pieces. Subjects are drawn from interdisciplinary studies and the surrounding world as well as personal experiences.

*Art Teachers* are responsible for designing and implementing an arts curriculum that is consistent with the Day School Mission Statement; builds on an ever-growing knowledge of how students learn best; reflects students’ developmental abilities, needs, styles, and interests; and demonstrates conceptual coherence and a continuity of skill development across grade levels. The curriculum should be individualized as much as possible to develop and extend the unique strengths of each child while, at the same time, supporting that child’s needs. St. Patrick’s encourages creativity and innovation in curriculum and instruction and supports a teacher’s initiatives in broadening and expanding the existing areas of study or instructional methods at a grade level.

*Art Teachers* need to work closely together as they craft the curriculum. Therefore, a highly collaborative spirit is essential to this position, as teachers learn from each other, share tips and techniques, and review the curriculum on an ongoing basis for horizontal and vertical alignment. At the same time, some of the most powerful learning occurs across disciplines. The *Art Teachers* must also collaborate with members of grade-level teams, perhaps building on or extending activities that originate in the homeroom or in other instructional settings, in pursuit of effective interdisciplinary learning that advances art skills and concepts along with skills and ways of thinking more closely associated with other fields of study.

*Art Teachers* are encouraged and expected to stay abreast of current trends and research in arts education and related fields and to apply appropriate strategies and techniques to meet the diverse needs of their students. They should maintain plan books detailing learning objectives, lessons, and activities, all of which focus on the overall goal of creating and fostering an organized, inviting, stimulating, and challenging learning environment. The classroom

environment and program should reflect an attention to artists and artistic traditions from throughout the world, including a variety of races, ethnicities, and cultures. Teachers new to St. Patrick's should become aware of ongoing curricular initiatives such as differentiated instruction, inquiry-based teaching, design and design thinking, and social-emotional learning.

## **COMMITMENT TO ST. PATRICK'S**

*Art Teachers* fulfill a variety of other important responsibilities as part of their positions. In doing so, they demonstrate their commitment to the St. Patrick's community. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- assuming a role in the larger school community by enforcing schoolwide policies and procedures and actively supporting and implementing the Day School Mission Statement, Statement of Philosophy, Creed, and Mission Statement for Equity and Diversity;
- working towards schoolwide goals and curriculum decisions;
- becoming familiar with and observing the policies and procedures as set forth in the *Faculty Handbook*;
- assuming responsibility for managing the Art Department budget, including selecting and ordering needed supplies and purchasing supplies within the budget;
- maintaining vigilance regarding the physical plant and notifying the Division Head of safety or other maintenance issues;
- serving as an advocate for the school in the wider community;
- completing the required annual health examination and maintaining required first aid and bloodborne pathogen training; and
- participating in school events outside regular school hours such as graduation, certain evening parent and professional development opportunities, and other special performances and gatherings.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Teachers assume responsibility for their own professional growth consistent with the criteria listed in St. Patrick's *Faculty Handbook*. They participate actively in regular faculty meetings (normally Thursdays beginning at 3:30 p.m.) and on committees of the school. They demonstrate a commitment to growth in setting annual goals and in their collaborative involvement in the school's evaluation process. St. Patrick's considers professional development an integral and vital part of each teacher's personal growth and learning and is committed to providing generous resources, opportunities, and guidance in this area.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

A successful candidate for the position of *Lower School Art Teacher* will have an undergraduate degree (masters preferred) in arts education or a related field; at least three to five years of successful teaching experience; an interest in and depth of knowledge about the development of primary- and elementary-age children, especially within the realm of artistic expression and including those from a variety of racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds; the ability to express ideas effectively both verbally and in writing; and a highly collaborative and collegial manner. The successful candidate will also have successfully completed the required background check.

## **CONTACT**

Candidates for the position of *Lower School Art Teacher* should email a cover letter, resume, and list of names and telephone numbers of at least three professional references to Jenifer Congdon, Head of Lower School, at [congdonj@stpatsdc.org](mailto:congdonj@stpatsdc.org).

## ***MISSION STATEMENT***

*St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School strives to create a diverse and inclusive learning community of students, faculty and staff, and parents who recognize the infinite value of every individual as a child of God. We are committed to developing character, advancing human understanding, and promoting academic excellence to shape engaged citizens who live with integrity, empathy, and purpose.*