



## Middle School Lead Teacher

**Position:** Middle School Lead Teacher  
**Reports to:** Director of Upper School  
**Location:** The Discovery School, 102 15th St., Jacksonville Beach, FL, 32250

### About the School

The Discovery School is a private, non-profit school that offers a unique educational experience through a gradual evolution from pure Montessori, to a blended curriculum, to pure International Baccalaureate (IB) over the course of the child's academic career, serving children ages 18-months through eighth grade.

Through a progressive and internationally-minded framework, students receive a firm foundation in academic skills and participate in a wide variety of enrichment opportunities from a dedicated and caring faculty. Students in our toddler and primary program engage in learning in a Montessori prepared environment with Montessori trained teachers. Students in our elementary school are a part of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP). Our middle school seeks to challenge students with academic rigor in a low-pressure environment.

### Job Summary

The Discovery School Middle School Lead Teacher understands and promotes the school's mission, vision, core values, and policies both within and outside the immediate school community. The teacher is responsible for providing an instructional program that supports the children's individual needs in accordance with the school's mission and vision.

The Middle School Lead Teacher works collaboratively and is responsible for participating in level meetings with colleagues and requesting and/or facilitating child study teams for learning different students or to address any other behavioral or cognitive concerns. The Middle School Lead Teacher communicates effectively with the administration on all aspects of the program to maintain congruence between their program level and the Board-approved mission.

The Middle School Lead Teacher is responsible for interpreting and implementing all classroom-based assessments as indicated in the School's curriculum guides and continuums. The Middle School Lead Teacher is also accountable for regularly evaluating the program to ensure children's social, emotional, and academic needs are met according to FCIS, IB, and state licensing standards. The Middle School Lead Teacher is professionally responsible for implementing best practices based on current research in education.

The Middle School Lead Teacher possesses a deep love of and respect for our learners, understands the specific profile of a young adolescent, and can leverage this knowledge towards encouraging them to take their initiative and appreciate the responsibility that comes with increased autonomy. The Middle School Lead Teacher should be comfortable with iteratively

differentiating instruction strategies, allowing for conceptual learning, which may be years ahead of what schools generally consider 'grade level' learning. In addition, the Middle School Lead Teacher will have a nuanced appreciation of social-emotional development during adolescence and should be comfortable guiding students through this development with equal poise as with their academic development.

Normal Hours:

- Monday thru Friday that school is in session 7:30 am – 4:00 pm
- Other hours as required and deemed necessary by the Director of Upper School

Planning, Preparation, Instruction, Communication:

- The Middle School Lead Teacher at The Discovery School supports the Middle School students to provide instruction that guides the development of the child's cognitive, emotional, social, physical, and spiritual growth using the School Curriculum, units of inquiry, and current research-based best instructional practices.
- Designs instruction that supports the development of the students.
- Develops and designs personalized learning opportunities that ensure that students have multiple pathways to demonstrate competency.
- Uses the School Curriculum and current research-based best instructional practices to develop integrated units of instruction that meet students' group and individual needs.
- Works with a multi-disciplinary team of educators to create aligned interdisciplinary learning sessions that allow students to reflect on how different subjects connect. Responsible for maintaining an ongoing dialogue with enrichment teachers and coordinating curriculum integration and implementation with these teachers.
- Provides coaching and instruction to students by leading learning experiences and assessing student work across subjects.
- Is able to work as a facilitator and coach to help students through the project process and maximize opportunities for student reflection, journaling, and sharing of the artifacts of learning with our community.
- Collaboratively works with teachers and students to individualize student learning goals and assists in the tracking and documentation of learning along with those goals.
- Differentiates instruction/coaching methods according to student needs, interests, and ability levels. Works with students of various abilities assigned to the classroom, including those with learning differences as diagnosed. The teacher may be required to participate in child study team meetings, training, and planning to meet each child's needs fully.
- Dedicates time to build units of inquiry as per IB/Discovery guidelines.
- Is responsible and reflective and shows ever-present mindfulness for when technology tools enhance learning and when they can inhibit it.
- Collaborates and shares ideas with other teachers in a workshop collaboration session; works as a community to utilize each person's knowledge across the whole school, to serve students as a whole community, and continuously improve as a school and as professionals.



- Applies a blend of learning pedagogy, including teaching for understanding, multi-age classes, spiral curricula, thematic, Harkness, Socratic and interdisciplinary, experiential, and fully leveraging technology with laptops in every classroom (for when work requires laptops).
- Uses various assessment tools/strategies such as observations, children's work samples, projects, continuums of development, MAP, portfolios, etc. to help make instructional decisions for individual students.
- Embraces parent partnership: communicate openly, proactively, honestly, compassionately, and regularly. Shares teaching philosophy and pedagogical beliefs proactively with parents, building buy-in and support.
- Oversees daily advisory.
- Conducts at least one week of summer camp during June and/or July.

#### Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree; Master's degree in education preferred but not required.
- At least 3 years of teaching experience.
- Comfortable with the integration of technology as a tool enabling learning.
- Deep capability to engage in differentiated instruction strategies for reading and writing.
- Able to make connections across disciplines and respond to students' ideas and inquiry by adapting lesson plans.
- Exceptionally strong interpersonal skills.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills to engage in a collaborative community.
- Strong English language & literature skills, scaffolding reading/writing related work, and providing an evaluation of work to students.
- Adept at communicating Discovery's story to various constituencies.

#### Required Competencies:

- Commitment to Discovery's Characteristics of Professional Excellence:
  - 1) Model the Portrait of the Graduate
  - 2) Passionately pursue their own professional growth and development
  - 3) Unabashedly hold children at the center of all decisions and actions
  - 4) Cultivate an inclusive and vibrant learning community
  - 5) Discover and act on what is possible
- Planning & Organizing
- Interpersonal/relationship management skills
- Collaboration & Teamwork
- Innovation
- Integrity and Trust
- Adaptability
- Attentive listener



**Work Authorization:** The candidate must be authorized to work in the US.

**Compensation:** Competitive and commensurate with experience.

**Benefits:** Health, dental, and vision insurance, 403(b), LTD and STD, paid leave, and life insurance.

**Start Date:** August 1, 2022

**To Apply:** <https://www.thediscoveryschool.org/about/employment>

*The Discovery School is an equal opportunity employer.*