

General Studies Teacher (K-5)

TITLE: General Studies Teacher (K-5)

REPORTS TO: General Studies Director

FLSA STATUS: Exempt

ABOUT PJA: As a Jewish Day School, we strive to ensure an academically rich environment which honors the whole child. Portland Jewish Academy (PJA) nurtures and inspires Jewish engagement, *kavod* - respect, and responsibility for the world in which we live.

Guided by our [*middot*](#) (values) and our mission, we share a commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice. With Jewish life at our center, we aspire to ensure a genuine sense of belonging in all members of our community. We honor and teach the importance of the vast expansiveness of human diversity.

As a school community, we are committed to creating and sustaining an accessible, supportive, welcoming, and compassionate environment for all. We recognize and respond to individual and institutional prejudices, both overt and subtle. We demonstrate our commitment to *tikkun olam* (repair the world) through anti-bias curriculum, admission and employment practices, and social action. We are committed to ongoing professional learning to align our practices with our values. We recognize that the advancement of these goals is a process, and we choose to bring courage, reflection and curiosity to this work.

Our unique curriculum combines interdisciplinary learning, community involvement, and foreign language acquisition – all with a values-based approach. We offer our students many opportunities for partnership and collaboration throughout the school community. Students at PJA are encouraged to think critically, independently, and creatively.

This position is benefits eligible, including a fully paid Medical plan option, optional dental and a generous Paid Time Off plan including a paid spring break. PJA is not only a great place for kids to learn, it's a wonderful work environment. We have the most gifted teachers, dedicated administrators, and the best support staff in Portland. Come be a part of our team!

JOB SUMMARY: The General Studies teacher is responsible to ensure an academically rich environment which honors the whole child. It is the responsibility of all teachers to

provide an atmosphere and environment conducive to the intellectual, social and emotional development of all students in the classroom and other school settings.

GENERAL STUDIES TEACHER ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:

Classroom Instruction: Design instruction focused on building understanding through inquiry, play, and exploration. Encourage student enthusiasm for the learning process by connecting to student's prior knowledge, life experiences, and interests. Plan and implement a program of instruction that adheres to PJA's philosophy, goals and objectives and meets student needs. Utilize a variety of instructional strategies to make subject matter accessible to all students.

Curriculum Development: Utilize deep working knowledge of subject matter, curriculum frameworks, and student development to organize subject matter to facilitate students' understanding. Develop and sequence long-term and short-term instructional plans to support student learning. Establish and articulate goals for student learning. Plan and implement a differentiated program of study designed to meet individual student needs. Maintain current fluency in all relevant subject matter.

Assessment: Assess student progress on a regular basis using multiple methods of assessment, and use data to inform instruction. Involve all students in self-assessment, goal setting and monitoring progress. Review data individually and with colleagues, to monitor student learning.

Collaboration: Collaborate with colleagues and engage in the broader professional community to support student learning. Work with other teachers and share responsibility for supervision of all students during the school day. Learn about and work with families to support student learning. Communicate regularly with families about learning and teaching. Coordinate and attend parent meetings.

Creating and Maintaining a Classroom Environment: Create and maintain a classroom environment conducive to learning by building meaningful relationships with students. Design an environment that reflects PJA's mission and middot, and functions as a socially, emotionally, intellectually, and physically safe community. Use instructional time to optimize learning through effective classroom routines, procedures, norms, and supports.

Professional Learning: Reflect on teaching practice to support student learning. Establish professional goals and engage in continuous and purposeful professional growth and development. Continue professional growth through attendance at workshops, seminars, conferences, and/or coursework at institutions of higher learning. Attend staff, department and committee meetings as required.

Other Duties as assigned/needed.

QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates may bring any combination of experience and training that demonstrates the ability to perform the duties of the position. This would typically include:

- Bachelor's degree in education required. Master's preferred.
- Three years' professional teaching experience preferred.
- Oregon or out of state licensure with appropriate endorsements or equivalent preferred.
- Fluency in evidence-based instructional methods and resources in: student-centered inquiry-based instruction, core academic content areas, and social emotional learning.
- Effective written and oral communication skills.
- Ability to work collaboratively with other staff, parents/guardians, and students.
- Ability to follow school policies and procedures
- Ability to maintain appropriate work habits including regular and punctual attendance and appropriate use of conference and planning time.
- Ability to care for and work with students for extended periods of time in a variety of settings.

BENEFITS: In addition to being a great place to work, PJA offers the following benefits package to our employees. As a Full Time Employee of PJA, you are eligible to participate in our Medical (fully or partially employer paid depending on the plan you select), optional Dental, LTD plans and a 401k plan. Free family membership to the [MJCC](#) community and fitness center and tuition discount for children of our employees round out this generous benefits package.