



GORDON SCHOOL

The Gordon School is a racially diverse nursery through eighth grade, all-gender, independent school in East Providence, Rhode Island. Child by child, the Gordon School community cultivates successful students by inspiring joyful learning, encouraging intellectual leadership, fostering an empathic spirit and stimulating a drive for positive societal impact.

JOB OPENING

Middle School Music Teacher

Start date: August 24, 2023

Overview

Founded in 1910 as the Open Air School by pediatrician Dr. Helen West Cooke, Gordon was Rhode Island's first non-public all-gender school. In 1963, the school moved to its current twelve-acre site in East Providence and remains true to its progressive roots, instilling "the true spirit of joyous work" and holding fast to the belief that "mind and heart should be educated with equal care."

Today, Gordon is a racially and socio-economically diverse nursery through eighth grade independent school with an enrollment of 365 students, renowned nationally for a multicultural curriculum and a commitment to equity, inclusion and social justice. The mission is embraced by all members of the community and is championed in all aspects of school life, inspiring and informing daily decisions as well as long-term strategy.

Gordon's nursery to eighth grade model best serves the educational, social and emotional needs of children by allowing students to connect across grade levels, promoting a school-wide sense of community, cultivating leadership in children of all ages and making key social skills like courage and compassion essential elements of the day-to-day experience.

Gordon's curriculum focuses on developing intellectual leadership by leveraging a child's natural imagination, creativity and inquisitive nature. Students are challenged and inspired to be active participants in their own education, and faculty and staff strive to develop deep and meaningful relationships with each child and family.

The opportunity

We are seeking a music teacher who is passionate about teaching general music literacy to our fifth and sixth graders. Additionally, we need an innovative music educator who is driven to develop appropriately rigorous performance ensembles with grades seven and eight through our arts electives program, clubs, and an auditioned ensemble.

Our middle school music educator will teach a choral ensemble elective, plus electives courses that they can develop, drawing upon their own areas of deep musical connection (Handbells and History of Hip Hop are examples of music electives we've had in the past). The ideal instructor would also build upon our existing choral scope and sequence by leading choral groups for fifth/sixth grades, as well as our auditioned a cappella group – both of which have flourished over the past decade at Gordon School.

The middle school music teacher will develop and implement a strong, multicultural curriculum that responds to and is supportive of the diverse developmental needs of the students, and that integrates music with other disciplines when appropriate. The ideal candidate will have both a broad and a deep understanding of music education, including choral and instrumental knowledge, and will demonstrate a profound understanding of middle schoolers. In addition to music instruction, as a member of the Middle School faculty, this person will serve as a Middle School advisor, working to support a small group of Middle School students with their social-emotional and academic experiences at Gordon. The position reports to the Middle School Director and works closely with the Arts Program Director.

A Day in the Life of the Middle School Music Teacher:

- Meet with the performing and visual arts teaching faculty to discuss opportunities for cross-curricular programming
- Lead a rehearsal for the G-Notes (Gordon's acapella group) in preparation for an upcoming performance
- Arrange a musical selection with Middle Schoolers to be featured in their musical production
- Facilitate a conversation for a small Middle School advisory group
- Teach engaging, skills-based music lessons for 5th and 6th graders
- Teach an engaging music elective for 7th and 8th graders
- Chaperone a grade-level team-building overnight trip to open the school year

Personal Attributes and Skills Required

- Experience teaching music theory and performance courses to Middle School students
- Appreciate and enjoy working with middle school children
- Be energetic, flexible, resilient and open to change
- Be creative, imaginative and resourceful
- Possess good organizational skills and be able to implement these effectively

- Have strong interpersonal skills that support and engender trust, and desire and be able to work as a positive member of a team of teachers
- Be a thoughtful and effective listener
- Be able to communicate with parents, colleagues, and students clearly and accurately both orally and in writing
- Have a strong sense of self, a good sense of humor, and a positive outlook on his/her personal endeavors
- Have a deep sense of community, be respectful of adults and children, and understand and respect human differences
- Support multicultural curriculum and education

Prerequisites for the Position

- Possess a music education degree or comparable experience
- Evidence of rigorous musical training and background; demonstrates a firm knowledge of musical concepts, techniques, and history
- Capable of training students vocally and instrumentally to a foundational level; committed to building musical literacy using a variety of methods (Kodaly, the Takadimi system, Orff Schulwerk, Solfege, among others)
- Experience building scope and sequence that uses musical instruments and teaching materials that are suitable for various stages of development
- Have a strong understanding and working knowledge of current educational practices and of a curriculum which supports a developmental, process-oriented approach
- Have experience working with children and parents

Duties and Expectations

- Promote direct student involvement and participation in all aspects of the program
- Establish and maintain a classroom environment that is organized and orderly, yet flexible
- Set and monitor a classroom tone that motivates, stimulates, and inspires students, is sensitive to their needs, and assumes appropriate behavior and respect for fellow classmates, teachers, and the school as a whole
- Serve as an advisor to a group of students, be well-informed about all aspects of advisees' work and school life, and be an advocate for and mentor to the advisees
- Develop and support specific learning goals and expectations for each grade level
- Assess student work appropriately and positively, write progress reports and hold parent conferences as requested
- Assume such student supervisory activities as may be required
- Attend and participate in advisor team, department, divisional, and all-school meetings
- Actively engage in ongoing professional development, especially regarding growth as a multicultural practitioner

How to apply

Interested and qualified candidates should submit the following materials:

- A cover letter describing why you are interested in working at Gordon and how your talents and experience are a fit for this position. *Your cover letter should clearly outline your understanding of Gordon's mission, its educational philosophy and how it aligns with your own educational philosophy.*
- A current résumé.

Please send your materials electronically in one email and as separate PDF documents to Alethea Dunham-Carson, Assistant Head of School for Teaching and Learning at adunhamcarson@gordonschool.org

No phone calls, please.