

CARDIGAN MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

Director of Gates Invention & Innovation Program



Overview

Cardigan Mountain School is a junior boarding and day school for boys in grades six through nine, located in Canaan, New Hampshire. The school seeks to employ individuals who will share our commitment to supporting the school's mission: "To offer a close-knit community that prepares middle school boys—in mind, body, and spirit—for responsible and meaningful lives in a global society." The school offers competitive salaries and benefits in a rewarding work environment defined by the strength of our community and our core values: compassion, integrity, respect and courage.

The Gates program at Cardigan provides a hands-on offering designed to encourage creative thinking, problem solving, risk taking, team building, and entrepreneurial spirit, and to develop in students of all grades an appreciation for creativity, hard work, perseverance, and resilience. The Charles C. Gates Invention & Innovation Competition is the culmination of a yearlong focus for students in the Gates program. Students are charged with identifying a specific problem in the real world and developing a "functioning innovation or invention to solve that problem." Each student or student team designs and builds the invention with guidance from the Gates director overseeing the program. Criteria for the invention or innovation include the following: it must perform a practical function, make life easier or safer, entertain, or solve an everyday problem. While pride in accomplishment is first and foremost, participants in the program vie for cash awards in a competition similar to a trade show at the end of the year. Outstanding projects that are unique and merit further consideration may be awarded a "patent nod" by the judges.

The Position

Cardigan Mountain School seeks an experienced and committed educator to lead our Gates Invention & Innovation Program starting 2026-2027 school year. The Director of the Gates Invention and Innovation oversees and works in tandem with other Gates Instructors to inspire and support productive young entrepreneurs, creative thinkers, scientists, and engineers with a focus on the STEM disciplines. The director will be someone who loves visionary thinking as well as tactical execution, and someone with an entrepreneurial spirit as well as a grounding in best practices in design education. The teaching position is a full-time, 10-month position at Cardigan Mountain School, a boarding school for middle school boys in grades 6-9.

The ideal candidate will have a strong working knowledge of the equipment and hand tools typically found in a well-equipped middle school industrial arts shop. The ideal candidate will also possess a STEM background with the foundational skills in computer programming and/or physical engineering to help with the expansion and development of the Gates Program into 8th and 9th grades. In addition to providing instruction in the safe and productive use of shop tools, the instructor should be creative and able to manipulate many types of materials including, but not limited to wood, metal, fabric, and plastic. The ability to work with computers for word processing, presentations, and graphics arts is important as well as well as a basic knowledge in robotics (VEX).

THE PROCESS

If interested in this position, please send a résumé and letter of interest to Joe Doherty, Dean of Faculty and Assistant Head of School at jdoherty@cardigan.org. We will be reviewing résumés on an ongoing basis, working to fill available positions.

School transcripts and letters of recommendation are not required at first, but will be required after preliminary screening. No phone calls please. We prefer electronic attachments rather than paper. An onsite interview is required. Criminal background checks are performed on all new hires.

Cardigan Mountain School is an equal opportunity employer, and will not discriminate, or tolerate discrimination, against any employee or applicant in any manner prohibited by law.

CONTACT

Joe Doherty

Dean of Faculty and Assistant Head of School

jdoherty@cardigan.org

Responsibilities

The Director of the Gates Invention and Innovation Program includes the following responsibilities:

Strategic Leadership

- Confidently represent the Gates Invention and Innovation Program's vision, goals, and learning objectives to the wider community in order to advance and expand the program in line with the Cardigan Strategic
- Lead, model, and inspire students and fellow Gates Instructors and Coaches
- Lead and plan the annual Gates Competition

Program Leadership

- Stay up-to-date on new discoveries in education and learning which relate to innovation and make recommendations for programmatic implementation as appropriate
- Increase students' skillset and understanding of the tools in Gates
- Differentiate classroom instruction based on student readiness
- Work collaboratively with and support the other Gates instructors and coaches
- Manage classroom materials and equipment
- Be an active member of school life outside the classroom (advisor, athletic coach, dorm parent, etc.)

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will possess the following qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree required
- Previous teaching experience in a middle school environment preferred but not required
- Demonstrated proficiency in subject area through previous coursework and/or experience
- Interest in and demonstrated skill in working with adolescent boys
- A shared commitment to an inclusive community, and respect for differences
- Ability to make contributions to School life across multiple facets of our program
- Willingness to embrace and engage in the active lifestyle of an independent boarding school
- Strong written and oral communication skills