



Part-Time Middle School Visual Arts Teacher

About The Birch Wathen Lenox School:

Since 1916, BWL, a K–12, coeducational, college preparatory independent school, has stood out on the Upper East Side of Manhattan as one of the most close-knit institutions the big city has to offer its most promising young people. Inside our unassuming brownstone building is a beyond-supportive community of experienced educators and devoted families who are committed to a mission of fostering growth and celebrating the individual differences of every student. To find out more, visit www.bwl.org.

Position Description:

The Birch Wathen Lenox School seeks a passionate and inventive part-time Middle School Visual Arts Teacher to join our community. The ideal candidate brings enthusiasm for a wide range of visual art practices — from the foundational principles of color theory, composition, and design to the expressive possibilities of fiber arts and tactile materials. We are especially interested in educators who are energized by the visual culture of public art and community-based art-making.

This teacher will not only lead rigorous and joyful studio practice in the classroom, but will also serve as a connector by linking students to the broader artistic world of New York City and beyond, and finding creative ways to bring the school's artistic life into public-facing contexts. This position reports to the Middle School Division Head and works closely with the Visual Arts Department.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Teach Middle School Visual Arts classes in an inquiry-based, studio-centered curriculum that emphasizes hands-on art-making and critical visual thinking.
- Develop and implement a developmentally appropriate, culturally responsive, and standards-aligned visual arts curriculum for middle school students.
- Ground students in the fundamentals of visual art, including color theory, composition, form, line, texture, and value, ensuring a strong foundation for creative exploration.
- Incorporate fiber arts, textiles, and tactile materials as a meaningful strand of the curriculum, introducing students to weaving, embroidery, collage, and mixed-media construction.
- Engage students in the study and practice of street art, public art, and muralism by examining artists such as Jean-Michel Basquiat, Faith Ringgold, Shepard Fairey, and others who have shaped the visual landscape of cities to explore how art functions in public and communal spaces.
- Design and lead projects that connect students to the artistic life of New York City through museum visits, gallery walks, public art tours, and relationships with local artists and organizations.

- Find opportunities to bring student art into the community, whether through school-facing exhibitions, neighborhood installations, partnerships with local businesses or cultural institutions, or digital public platforms.
- Collaborate closely with classroom teachers and specialists to integrate visual arts into interdisciplinary units and school-wide themes, including collaboration with the Performing Arts team to support the Musical.
- Communicate and meet with parents, as necessary, to discuss the progress of their children.
- Contribute to the broader life of the school through extra help, club advising, and duties such as recess or lunch proctoring.
- Attend Middle School faculty, Art department, and team meetings.
- Additional responsibilities may include admissions events, field trip chaperoning, and/or serving as an advisor.

Qualifications:

A B.A., B.F.A., or equivalent degree from an accredited college or university is required, along with at least two years of full-time teaching experience; an advanced degree in Art Education or a related field is preferred. Applicants should demonstrate knowledge of child development and a commitment to progressive, student-centered teaching practices, with fluency in foundational art principles, including color theory, composition, form, and design. We seek candidates with experience in fiber arts, textiles, or other tactile and craft-based media, as well as knowledge of and enthusiasm for street art, public art, and muralism. Experience integrating visual arts into interdisciplinary contexts and a demonstrated commitment to connecting students to art outside the classroom, through community partnerships, field experiences, and public-facing work, are both important. Strong classroom management, the ability to differentiate instruction, comfort with educational technology, and excellent communication skills are expected.

The Birch Wathen Lenox School is an equal-opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity and inclusion. The School does not discriminate on the basis of age, immigration or citizenship status, race or color, disability, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, pregnancy, religion or creed, height and weight, military or veteran status, predisposing genetic characteristics, marital status, sexual or reproductive health decisions, employment status, credit history, caregiver/parent status, or status as a victim or survivor of domestic violence, sex offenses, or stalking. All employment decisions are made on the individual merits of each applicant.

Salary Range: \$60,000–\$70,000

*This is a part-time position, so there are no additional benefits offered.

To apply, please send your cover letter and resume to:

Guido Sanchez, Director of Middle School: guido.sanchez@gbwl.org.