



GORDON SCHOOL

45 Maxfield Avenue, East Providence, RI 02914 401 434-3833 www.gordonschool.org

Request for Proposal: Middle School Electives Teaching Artist

The Gordon School is a racially diverse nursery through eighth grade all-gender independent school in East Providence, RI. The curriculum is rooted in multicultural practice and social justice, with an emphasis on developing intellectual leadership, active imagination, and a child's naturally inquisitive nature. Students are challenged and inspired to be active workers toward their own education, and teachers strive to develop meaningful relationships with each child and family.

We are seeking teaching artists to design and implement mission-aligned visual arts electives for our 7th and 8th-grade programs. We welcome proposals spanning any visual art or craft media, as well as culturally relevant topics across media. (Past electives have included mosaic, physical animation, art-as-activism, and deep dives into color theory).

Courses should be engaging, developmentally appropriate for students aged 12–15, and bring innovative skills to our creative student body. Typically, a course should culminate in two exhibition-ready projects alongside smaller scaffolding works.

Collaboration & Proposals:

Applicants must demonstrate expertise via exhibitions, teaching experience, or a portfolio. A fully developed curriculum is *not* required at this stage. Selected artists will collaborate with a Gordon faculty member to refine pacing, learning goals, and deliverables to ensure a high-quality experience.

Teaching Specifics & Logistics

- **Schedule:** One hour per day, meeting three times across an eight-day rotation (approx. 27 instructional hours per semester). Semester 1 runs from September 2nd - December 17th & Semester 2 runs from January 4th through May 6th. Class times are between 11:45 AM and 12:45 PM. *Note: Teaching days follow the rotation and do not correspond to fixed days of the week.*
- **Studio Space:** A well-equipped art studio is available before and after class for setup and cleanup. (The studio is shared with other Gordon teachers throughout the day).

- **Requirement:** Employment is contingent upon passing a criminal background check.

Desired Qualifications & Attributes

- **Education & Experience:** An undergraduate degree and demonstrated experience working with middle-school-aged children.
- **Pedagogical Alignment:** A working knowledge of current educational practices, experience working in racially and gender-diverse communities, and an understanding of a process-oriented arts curriculum that supports multi-cultural and inclusive pedagogy.
- **Classroom Leadership:** Confidently manages middle schoolers, time, and materials to cultivate a respectful, focused studio culture.
- **Proactive Collaboration:** Self-directed professional who meets deadlines, initiates communication, and partners with faculty for residency success.
- **Interpersonal Skills:** Robust listening skills, flexibility, resilience, a good sense of humor, and the ability to build trust across the community.
- **Passion:** A genuine love for the arts and a deep enthusiasm for the unique, energetic developmental stages of middle schoolers.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should email **Laurie Clark, Arts Department Coordinator**. Laurie can answer any questions and will provide a Google Form link to upload your proposal and documents.

Please note that the deadline for **Fall electives** is **July 24th**. While there is no hard deadline for **Spring electives**, applications will close once all courses are filled.

Laurie Clark, Arts Department Coordinator
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