



Music Teacher (5th-8th grade) 2010-2011

ACE Charter School, a 5th-8th grade middle school which propels low-achieving students to academic proficiency, is seeking a Music teacher for the 2010-2011 academic year.

ACE Charter School is located in the Mayfair neighborhood of East San Jose. The school opened in August of 2008 with 100 5th graders and 6th graders, and will grow to a capacity of 450 students by 2011. The school's mission is to recruit its target students—5th and 6th graders scoring Far Below Basic or Below Basic on the California Standards Tests—and provide them with the acceleration, individualized instruction, coaching, and emotional capital they need to achieve success in high school and beyond.

The 2010-2011 academic year will be the third year of operation for ACE Charter School. As such, we are not just looking for educators, but founding staff members. We need people who can function in a fast-paced, ambiguous setting, who demonstrate flexibility, creativity and persistence. We need people equally committed to the near-term goal of building a great school as well as the legacy-building necessary to ensure that ACE Charter School can build a strong foundation for all future ACE schools.

School Model Overview

To achieve the goal of academic proficiency for all by the end of 8th grade, ACE's academic model is based on:

- Highly personalized academic program in which half of a student's schedule is adapted quarterly in response to achievement data
- An extended school day with interventions and electives offered in the afternoons
- An emphasis on creating a culture of *ganas* (a Spanish word meaning will or desire) and optimism for students for whom academic success has been difficult
- A mix of highly scaffolded, rigorous standards-based classes, intensive acceleration and intervention in Reading and Math, and rich elective courses that support the school's culture of *ganas* and optimism.

Job Description

The duties of the Art teacher at ACE will include, but will not be limited to, the following:

- **Development of an Interdisciplinary Core Curriculum:** ACE teachers in all subject areas will work closely with the Music teacher to develop projects and work products which infuse performing arts skills into the core curriculum with the goal of promoting improved reading, problem-solving, and thinking skills.
- **Stand-alone Music Classes:** For the ACE target student, many of whom must spend almost the entire 8:30-5:00 school day struggling to close significant skills gaps, the Music program will provide a high-interest, fundamentally academic venue for success.
- **Planning and Coordination of Student Exhibitions:** The Music teacher will have a key role in preparing students to share their work with families and community members as well as training teachers in the execution and assessment of performing arts-based projects that will be displayed at these events at least twice during the school year.
- **Outreach to Music community:** One aspect of the Art teacher's work is to bring students into contact with new cultural experiences as a way of both broadening horizons and indicating to students and

families the opportunities that come along with academic success and college graduation. This work includes organizing field trips as well as bringing artists and performers to campus.

The Music teacher will have a direct connection to the design and implementation of ACE's performing arts curriculum in an effort to best fit the needs of the school's target student. The Music teacher will also be expected to continue building on the school's successful routines as well as to maintain continuity from classroom to classroom.

Key Responsibilities:

- To contribute to the creation of a schoolwide culture of success for students who are performing below grade level
- To participate in a significant amount of professional development during the summer months as well as professional development days during the academic year
- To model the ACE core values of *respect*, *pride*, and *ganas* and encourage and demand that all students do the same
- To build close connections with families and the school community
- To participate in all aspects of school life

Primary Qualification:

It is critical that all teachers at ACE hold and demonstrate the inherent belief that all students can achieve academic success and be on the path to college, regardless of their circumstances.

Jon Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited university
- Valid California Teaching Credential (Multiple Subject K-8 or Single Subject – Music)
- 1+ year(s) experience working with students in urban schools
- Commitment to creating a school atmosphere where students learn to be active, disciplined learners
- Strong communication skills and personal drive
- Relentless pursuit of high expectations
- An entrepreneurial, flexible spirit

While not mandatory, the ability to speak Spanish is highly desirable

Compensation:

- Commensurate with experience

To apply, please submit the following items to Ms. Vanessa Sifuentes, ACE Charter School Principal:

- Cover letter
- Resume
- Two (2) references or two (2) letters of recommendation
- Copy of a valid CA teaching credential

Application materials can be submitted via email to careers@acecharter.org or via fax at 408-729-3952. Any questions, please call ACE Charter School at 408-729-3920.