



The Massachusetts School of
Science, Creativity and Leadership

Middle School Interdisciplinary Core Teacher, Projects Mentor & Curriculum Creator

Acera: The Massachusetts School of Science, Creativity and Leadership

Winchester, MA

Contact: Hiring@aceraschool.org

Job Summary:

Do you have passion and a commitment to innovation in education? We seek a deeply talented facilitator of learning who can join an entrepreneurial teaching team and co-lead a group of 30 gifted middle school students.

Acera emphasizes core capacities complex thinking, perspective taking, collaboration, creativity, EQ and leadership. We hire teacher entrepreneurs to take ownership in evolving our program. Background in government, political science, or history preferred though not required.

Acera emphasizes core capacities like complex thinking, EQ and leadership as well as skill development in organization and writing. We hire great teacher entrepreneurs to take ownership in evolving our program.

Co-Lead "MS2" in dynamic partnership with our current MS2 Core Teacher alongside with a team of specialist teacher/ mentors and our MS1 Core Teacher. Create individualized learning plans for grade 7 & 8 students, engage in parent conferences and communication, and be a key teacher leader within our 50 student middle school program.

Requirements:

- *Deep intellectual talent, creative verve, facilitation skill, and an adaptive and collaborative style to engage students with authentic inquiry, projects, and customized approaches.*
- *A highly experienced professional, preferably a career changer with 5+ years of lead teaching experience.*
- *Capacity to evolve approaches in response to students' interests, passions and needs.*
- *Background in political science, government, history and/or world cultures preferred; the ideal candidate is dually experienced in coaching students' writing skills.*

Partner with other strong middle school teachers to continuously evolve our middle school program to best fit the students' needs and interests. We empower our teachers as entrepreneurs in their classrooms. We believe in removing the boundaries that can limit students -- and teachers -- from stepping into their best selves.

Apply with resume, teaching philosophy, and salary history: hiring@aceraschool.org

Complete Overview:

Acera: The Massachusetts School of Science, Creativity and Leadership

5 Lowell Avenue, Winchester MA

www.aceraschool.org

Acera is a growing, private K-8 school that provides high ability students with unbounded access to learning. At Acera, students learn, discover and explore at a pace appropriate to each child's unique motivation and potential, not their age. Our culture is not about pressure to achieve; it is about freedom to thrive. We support our students' innate curiosity and love of learning with an interdisciplinary, hands-on learning approach. By developing character, knowledge, and talent, we develop thinkers and innovators who will be able to make positive change in our world. The Acera community strives to consistently cultivate a committed and highly educated faculty, maintain a high degree of parental involvement, and nurture in its students a life-long love of learning.

At Acera, we are looking for a creative facilitator teacher with passion, high energy, and a commitment to innovation in education. If the thought of working at a non-profit with a start-up "feel" -- where you can have a big impact gets you excited, then Acera needs



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you to Co-Teach and Co-Lead our multi age middle school 2 Program focused on Grade 7 and Grade 8 Students. We seek someone with deep intellectual talent, creative verve, and an adaptive and collaborative style to engage and customize a progressive learning approach for a group of talented middle school students.

The ideal candidate is a highly experienced professional. The role includes creation and re-creation of the program in response to students' interests, passions and needs, and co-facilitation and co-leadership of an interdisciplinary program for up to 30 middle school students.

Belief in progressive educational approaches is essential. We are focused on a student centered and individualized approach to learning. We empower our teachers as entrepreneurs in their classrooms. Rather than follow age-based standards, consistent expectations across students, or particular curricula, we believe in removing the boundaries that can limit students (and teachers) from stepping into their best selves.

Our program philosophy includes three different areas:

1. A program for gifted students (Massachusetts is a climate which typically rejects this terminology, though this phrase is the national term used for the population we serve.)
2. A STEM rich program focused on creative and complex thinking and problem solving, raising students in the "soup" of the sciences and freedom of thought across disciplines
3. A progressive education approach built around authentic inquiry. Dialogue and projects in classrooms focus on open-ended problem solving rather than an emphasis on coverage of content or achieving age based standards of performance. Rather than training conformity or testing knowledge acquisition, we empower students to struggle, problem solve, innovate, initiate and lead.

Mission:

We envision a world in which schools engage students in meaningful learning, in which teachers are freed as entrepreneurs in their classrooms, and in which students can become the best version of themselves, given each students' unique capacities, needs, and passions. The Acera school day program provides students with unbounded access to learning, offering gifted students opportunity according to their ability not age. The Acera community, across all its programs and partnerships, learns, discovers, and explores at a pace appropriate to each child's unique motivation and potential. Our culture is not about pressure; it is about freedom. We keep alive students' innate curiosity and love of learning. We also partner with organizations beyond our walls, creating programs rich in sciences, technology, engineering, creativity and arts. We operate both as a lab school and a microcosm of what is possible for other schools. We seek to grow students' emotional intelligence and enable them to become the best version of themselves. Our mission, across our core school day program, enrichment programs and within our partnerships, is to develop the next generation of innovators, leaders and creative thinkers who can make a positive impact in the world.

The Need for Something Different: Massachusetts ranks last in the nation in gifted education. There is great urgency and need within the gifted population. These students often do not have access to an appropriate education.

Job Description: Acera seeks a dynamic, fully engaged, and creative professional who is a natural systems thinker and adaptable out of a deep respect for student voice. The teacher will collaborate with the current literature and writing focused Middle School Teacher to develop discovery oriented, inquiry based programming in our young school. A highly entrepreneurial teacher who is drawn to project learning experiences, the asking of questions, and who favors truly student centered and individualized learning models is the right fit.

The ideal candidate will be creative, articulate, flexible, and collaborative. He/she will use these traits to help create, customize, and implement interdisciplinary curricula focused on process rather than product. He/she will be firmly committed to an inquiry methodology with students' interests and voice at the core of that methodology. The ideal candidate will also identify, create and/or leverage and leverage courseware which students use for collaborative and creative learning experiences. The expectations for this position are:

- Customize curriculum and align key references and questions for focus through discussion and collaboration with our other middle school teacher. As appropriate, leverage rich and varied resources for inventing inquiry driven, interdisciplinary



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learning.

- Together with the other middle school 2 core teacher, create and customize Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs).
- Adapt classroom activities and strategies to differentiate for each student's needs, capacities, and interests; understand and support each learner's strengths and style, and foster a setting in which they can each be their best self, while also progressing in areas of relative weakness.
- Plan and lead a daily math group, leveraging and customizing curricula appropriately
- Collaborate within our community. Leverage teachers' and parents' knowledge across the whole school to serve students as a community, and to continuously improve as a school and as professionals.
- Collaborate with the rich pool of researchers in the greater Boston academic community to bring their expertise, mentorship, and ideas to life in the classroom with students. Engage curriculum collaborators to spend time in our school as experts and inspirations for our students.
- Apply Inquiry Pedagogy.
- Apply an array of technological resources thoughtfully and meaningfully to enhance the student experience.
- Belief in a constructivist approach to learning
- Cover recesses and lunch 1-2x / week (and if needed when staff members are out sick.)
- Leverage student engagement and voice as a key strategy to manage classroom engagement and student needs

The right candidate will have philosophical alignment with our core values and curriculum, which can be found on our website: www.Aceraschool.org

Application:

Please submit cover letter and resume along with a personal statement of educational philosophy, description of your classroom management / discipline beliefs, any experiences and/or training in gifted education you have had, salary history, and salary expectations to: hiring@Aceraschool.org

Anticipated start date: Mid/ Late August 2017 + some additional time in the summer for new hire orientation and curriculum collaboration planning meetings. If possible, candidate would ideally also participate for our June Curriculum Collaboration Workshop.

Equal Opportunity Employer

Acera is committed to maintaining a work and learning environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, pregnancy, gender, sexual orientation, marital/civil union status, ancestry, place of birth, age, citizenship, veteran status, political affiliation or disability as defined and required by state and federal laws.