



The Massachusetts School of
Science, Creativity and Leadership

Middle School Lead Teacher with focus on Humanities, Inquiry, and Curriculum Creation

Acera: The Massachusetts School of Science, Creativity and Leadership
MA

Winchester,

Contact: [hiring@aceraschool.org](mailto: hiring@aceraschool.org)

Job Summary:

Acera seeks a dynamic, engaged, adaptable and creative professional who is a natural systems thinker and holds a deep respect for student voice. The teacher will collaborate with the MS Teacher Team to develop discovery oriented, inquiry based programming in our young school. The ideal candidate is an entrepreneurial educator with intellectual capacity, creative verve, facilitation skill, and a collaborative style to engage students in authentic, student centered inquiry while ensuring differentiated skill and socio-emotional development.

Acera emphasizes developing students' core capacities of systems thinking, perspective taking, collaboration, creativity, emotional intelligence and leadership, as well as their skills in organization and writing. We hire teacher entrepreneurs who take ownership in our program. Background in government, political science, philosophy or history preferred though not required.

This teacher will collaborate with a MS teacher team (including two other classroom teachers + specialists in science lab, construction, electronic arts, architecture, art, and computer science) to create differentiated, interdisciplinary curricula built around student interests and individualized learning plans for grade 6 students. Along with the other lead MS teachers who focus on grades 7 and 8, define essential questions and themes that create a jumping off point for discussions, literature book groups, electives and projects. Create individualized learning plans that fit each student's capacity, interests, needs, and learning style.

Do you have passion and a commitment to innovation in education? Do you love working with young people? We seek a deeply talented facilitator of learning who can join an entrepreneurial teaching team in a K-8 school and serve as lead teacher for a group of 20 gifted middle school (grade 6) students.

Contact [hiring@aceraschool.org](mailto: hiring@aceraschool.org) with letter, educational philosophy statement, and salary expectations.

Detailed Overview:

Acera is an independent 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.

Belief in progressive educational approaches is essential. We are focused on a student centered and individualized approach to learning. 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.



The Massachusetts School of
Science, Creativity and Leadership

Requirements:

- Collaborative approach and excellent communication skills to partner with parents and the MS teacher team.
- 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.
- Confident to plan and lead a pre-algebra, algebra 1 or geometry group, leveraging and customizing curricula appropriately
- 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.
- 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.
- Belief in a constructivist approach to learning
- Cover recesses and lunch 1x / 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

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.

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

Application: Contact [hiring@aceraschool.org](mailto: hiring@aceraschool.org) with resume, teaching philosophy, and salary expectations.

Anticipated start date: Mid/ Late August 2017 + some additional time in the summer for planning meetings.

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.

