



Starting immediately and fall 2018 – Classroom Teaching Assistant

About Polaris

Located on Chicago's west side, Polaris Charter Academy is a dynamic EL Education (formerly Expeditionary Learning) school dedicated to supporting students to become academically successful life-long learners with a strong sense of personal and civic responsibility. With 450 students grades K – 8, PCA promotes an expanded definition of student achievement, putting both academic excellence and character development equally at the forefront. PCA was founded in 2007 by three Golden Apple Award winning teachers whose mission was to transform education by creating a school deeply rooted in the best practice of "learning by doing." Their partnership with EL Education brought about rigorous community-based curriculum called "expeditions" (long term projects), experiential learning methods, and the importance of developing character through a core set of values, we call The Points of Polaris. PCA is one of the 33 credentialed EL Education schools and one of seven EL Mentor Schools in a national network of more than 150 schools that work together with EL Education to challenge students to think critically and take active leadership in their classrooms and community.

You Have:

- Strong belief that children can make a significant contribution to the school, community, and world
- Belief that every child can learn and reach high levels of academic achievement and character growth
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to collaborate effectively informally and formally with fellow team members and staff
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate effectively informally and formally with fellow team members and staff
- Experience working with groups of elementary and middle school children within a school setting
- Associates Degree or 60 hours of college credit
 - In lieu of these, a paraprofessional exam may be taken to fulfill this requirement

As part of the Polaris crew you will:

- Collaborate with lead teacher to assist with classroom administrative tasks
- Support student achievement by assisting with instruction in one-on-one, small group, and whole class settings in literacy, math, social studies and science.
- Assume role as lead teacher when called upon to substitute in effort to maintain student learning
- Commit to character education fostered through daily practice of Crew and challenging academic work
- Effectively monitor your classroom during lunch and recess
- Continue to grow and develop your skills while participating in professional development

Want to join the PCA crew?

PCA seeks to recruit persons of diverse backgrounds. PCA is inclusive of people regardless of their race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, marital status, age, physical abilities, political affiliation, religious beliefs or any other non-merit fact, so that all employees feel included, equally valued and supported.

To initiate the process, please send your cover letter, resume and three professional references to Tammy Vance, Associate Director, at tvance@pcachicago.org.