

2019-2020 Opening: Middle School ELA /Crew Lead Teacher (Grades 5/6, 7/8)

Who are we?

We are Polaris Charter Academy, a dynamic EL Education (formerly Expeditionary Learning) school on Chicago's west side. We exist to support 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.

We are CREW

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, which 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. We are the only EL Education network school in the City of Chicago.

To find out more about our work visit our website at www.pcachicago.org.

Who are you?

You are someone who has...

- 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 evidence of implementing developmentally appropriate engaging and effective instructional practices that increase student learning and achievement
- Proven ability to contribute to a high-performing team, along with strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate effectively informally and formally with fellow team members and staff
- A commitment and thirst for continuously improving teaching and school culture through rigorous coaching and professional development
- A drive to take risks or try new methods of teaching
- Passion for Deeper Learning that aligns with the principles of EL Education (Learn more about EL Education at elschools.org)
- Passion/experience for project-based learning and vision for interdisciplinary integration
- Illinois teaching license(s) with a middle school endorsement in English-Language Arts

As part of the Polaris Crew, you will:

- Develop and implement CCSS aligned curriculum, using existing PCA curriculum maps as a guide
- Maintain effective instructional practices, ensuring that all students have access to content and participate equally, and use data to modify instruction to ensure differentiated learning
- Commit to character education fostered through daily practice of Crew, a designated time to circle up your students to focus on community building, goal setting, and social emotional growth
- Continue to grow and develop your practice by participating in rigorous coaching and professional development aligned to our strong commitment to a social justice mission and curriculum
- Collaborate effectively with a departmentalized team and a part-time teaching assistant assigned to your classroom

The Mission of Polaris Charter Academy

Is to educate students to be self-motivated, creative, critical thinkers, with the ultimate goal of Shaping life-long learners and citizens with a strong sense of personal and civic responsibility.

The Five Points of Polaris ★ Integrity ★ Compassion ★ Explorer ★ Critical Thinker ★ Active Citizen



Where learning has no boundaries...

Want to join the PCA crew?

PCA seeks to recruit persons of diverse backgrounds and 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 and resume to Michelle Navarre, Head of School, at mnavarre@pcachicago.org.

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