

2019-2020 Opening: Special Education Primary Grades K-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 project-based 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 grade level teams
- 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 in project-based learning
- Illinois teaching license(s) and an LBS1 endorsement (current or in the works)

As part of the Polaris Crew, you will:

- Develop, document, and implement curriculum aligned with IEP goals, standards as well as PCA curriculum maps
- 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
- 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 your team as well as grade level teams and/or content specific teachers

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

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 and resume to Michelle Navarre, Head of School, at mnavarre@pcachicago.org.

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