



## ***Starting Immediately & Fall 2019: Grades K- 8 Teaching Assistant***

### **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 school in the city of Chicago.

To find out more about our work visit our website at [www.pcachicago.org](http://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
- Evidence of ability to build strong relationships with students (respect and rapport)
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate effectively informally and formally with fellow team members and staff
- Experience working with and managing groups of elementary and/or middle school students within a school setting
- Associates Degree or 60 hours of college credit
  - In lieu of these a successful completion of a paraprofessional exam

### **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
- Assume role as lead teacher to maintain student learning when called upon to substitute
- Effectively manage and monitor your classroom during lunch and recess
- Continue to grow and develop your skills while participating in ongoing professional development



POLARIS CHARTER ACADEMY

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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, resume and three professional references to Tammy Vance, Associate Director, at [tvance@pcachicago.org](mailto:tvance@pcachicago.org).