



2019-2020 Opening Special Education Paraprofessional

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.

Duties and Responsibilities Include:

- Support designated student with Individual Educational Plan (IEP) to insure academic and social-emotional success in general education classroom
- Implement the modification/accommodations as specified in student's IEP
- Assist classroom teacher in behavior management of student by reinforcing directions and supporting classwork as given by the classroom teacher
- Support student in collaborating with peers, building student's confidence and relationships in the general education classroom
- Observe, record, and organize data on behaviors if indicated on the IEP
- Attend fieldwork with class to support student success

Requirements:

- 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 building strong relationships (respect and rapport) with students
- Evidence of ability to implement effective de-escalation strategies when necessary
- Flexibility, especially when modifications to student schedule occurs
- A passion and commitment to continuously learning and improving knowledge of interventions and supports that will increase student achievement and independence
- Associates Degree or higher OR of 60 hours of college credit
 - In lieu of these a successful completion of a paraprofessional exam



POLARIS CHARTER ACADEMY

Where learning has no boundaries.

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.