



THE RIVER FARM COOPERATIVE SCHOOL

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Seeking Middle School Teacher for Progressive School, Alexandria, VA

The River Farm Cooperative (www.RiverFarmCooperative.com) in Alexandria, VA, is seeking a passionate, holistic, full-time educator for students ages 11–14 in a mixed-age classroom. This is an incredible opportunity to teach in a wholesome setting: you'll have a small class of motivated students (12 max.), dedicated parents, high levels of autonomy and creativity in the classroom, and a chance to help us build our new middle school program. Plus, your innovative, equity-oriented lessons and ideas will be celebrated and valued in our familial community! Imagine starting your teaching day with yoga, weekly hikes, spending daily time in nature, and having strong parent buy-in.

About the River Farm Cooperative:

Based in Alexandria, VA, the River Farm Cooperative is a secular, parent-powered, independent private school cooperative for grades K-8. We guide a child's individual and innate desire to learn by encouraging opportunities to exercise self-motivation, self-knowledge, and respect for self, others, and the planet. While academics are important to us, our program is unique in that we also emphasize socio-emotional growth, relationships, curiosity, and respect for the natural world. To nurture this growth, we greet each school day with community yoga/meditation, daily check-in, weekly hikes, daily free time in nature (rain-or-shine), and 1-2 field trips per month to encourage students to connect to their bodies, their peers, and the world around them. There are two additional classrooms, for a total school enrollment of 38 children max.

Job Details:

Our teacher is responsible for preparing daily lesson plans, record keeping, and for instruction of 11-14 year olds in language arts, math, writing, science, history, geography, cultural studies, nature study, and arts appreciation. Must be able to inspire and challenge children and to develop and teach innovative lesson plans adaptable to multiple age and grade levels 6-8. The ideal applicant has experience/training in progressive pedagogical environments such as Reggio-Emilia Inspired, Montessori,

Waldorf, Outdoor/Forest education, Africana Studies, or Critical Pedagogy. Our preferred candidate is inspired to share in a love of learning with children, and possesses strong classroom management skills, with a genuine reverence for the world.

Flexible position start date, to accommodate those currently in teaching contracts; available immediately, as full or part time, with a hard start date for September 2019 full time. Our preference is for someone to begin, paid to shadow, or overlap in the spring semester of 2019. School is in session September through mid-June, 8:15 am – 3:30 pm. Teachers are expected to come early and stay later to prepare and chat with parents, and to attend a reasonable number of meetings and events. Salary \$45-50K, depending on enrollment and qualifications. Holidays and most school vacations follow Fairfax County. Benefits include paid time off and a tuition discount. We rarely close for weather.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in education or a degree in a related field with a progressive education certificate (Waldorf, Montessori, etc.) and four years of experience teaching in a progressive environment with mixed ages.
- Three years of experience teaching academics to students in grades 6-8.
 - Ability to teach language arts, history, science, and math to a tween and young teen population, including algebra.
- Background in progressive education (knowledge of cooperative education, Outdoor/Forest Schools, Reggio Emilia Inspired, Montessori, Waldorf, or another progressive education pedagogy).
- An understanding of and appreciation for intercultural differences; commitment to diversity and social justice.

Additional Preferred Qualifications:

- Knowledge of curriculum development and/or adolescent education
- Knowledge of Real Science Odyssey, Singapore Math, Writing Revolution
- Willing and able to hike and be outdoors in all kinds of weather, year-round
- Experience in a mixed-age classroom
- Love of, and knowledge about, the outdoors
- A passion for working in a cooperative educational environment
- High-energy, creative, flexible, nurturing, and collaborative spirit
- Training and/or experience in yoga; willing to be trained in yoga

Interested candidates, please send a resume and a cover letter or cover email to:

middleschool@riverfarmcooperative.com

Your cover letter should explain why you are a great fit for the position.