



The Odyssey School of Denver is seeking candidates for a
LEAD Teacher:

Elementary/Intermediate Grade Lead Teacher

Dear Candidates,

The quality of a school lies in its culture.... The only way to understand a school culture is to understand what students experience in being part of it. Not just the motivated, mainstream students, but also the students who look or feel different... A school culture of quality connotes a culture of high standards for all students in all domains: standards for academic achievement, arts, physical fitness, critical thinking and creativity, but also standards for kindness, integrity, industriousness, and responsibility.

If this quote, by Ron Berger in *A Culture of Quality*, resonates with you, the Odyssey School of Denver might be just the right school for you to teach and inspire 4th and 5th grade students.



The Odyssey School of Denver's mission is to teach students how to learn through a focus on academic achievement, critical thinking and social responsibility. What makes us different is our commitment to the following key ideas:

- How we learn is as important as what we learn: our students engage in long-term interdisciplinary units that get them out of the classroom, thinking deeply about real-world topics.
- High expectations for all learners: all students can succeed, through great instruction and supporting students to own their learning.
- Living by our commitment to crew and community: we are tight knit community where we support and push each other to be our best.

Located approximately 3 miles to the east of downtown Denver, the Odyssey School of Denver is in the ideal location to live out the principles of EL Education while also serving a diverse community. As one of 155 EL Education (formerly Expeditionary Learning) schools nation-wide, we have honed our implementation of the model for the past 17 years, enabling us to earn our EL credentialed school status.

We hope that you take the time to get to know us and make sure that Odyssey is a good fit for you, prior to applying. The materials that follow are meant as resources to support your careful reflection.

Sincerely,

Marnie Moody Cooke
Executive Director

marnie@odysseydenver.org

Is this the right position for you?

Use this list to help you learn about our school and consider this amazing opportunity! ***If many of your values, experiences, and skills align, we encourage you to apply!***

- You are philosophically aligned with Odyssey & EL Education's Core Practices.**
You have experience teaching in either an EL school OR a school with similar tenets. Maybe you are new to the craft of teaching, but our mission and EL's core practices align with your own beliefs about teaching and learning.
- You have a passion for Reading and Writing.**
You love reading and writing, and want to share this passion with students. You believe that kids need to be immersed in rich reading and writing experiences every day, and for a variety of purposes. You incorporate the common core shifts within your long and short term plans. You have experience empowering students to identify as readers and writers, so they can develop top-notch reading and writing skills.
- You think elementary/intermediate grade students are the best!**
You have a strong understanding of child development and the reasons for why students act as they sometimes do. You believe that elementary/intermediate grade students can do rigorous, collaborative, and high quality work. You value family involvement and have experience working directly with parents/guardians.
- You are skilled at teaching a diverse group of students.**
You believe in inclusive learning environments and have experience working with diverse learners. You believe in the need to hone your instructional practice to maximize the engagement and academic growth of all students.
- You are skilled at using data to inform instruction and decision-making.**
You understand that just because you taught it, doesn't mean that your students learned it. You have experience reviewing and analyzing formative and summative assessment results and working to build action plans or identify next steps. You also value analyzing other data points to inform decision-making, professional development, and student support processes (e.g. Response to Intervention).
- Your organizational skills rock!**
Need to find that set of papers you collected yesterday? No problem! Need to help a student create and maintain systems to stay on top of their supplies? You have this! You have systems and structures to keep your own work and thinking organized.
- You create a culture that nurtures the philosophy "Crew Not Passengers."**
You are skilled at building a culture of respect, responsibility, caring & fun. Your students own the phrase "crew not passengers," and are committed to collaborating toward quality work and citizenship.
- You are a tenacious learner.**
As much as you love teaching students, you also love learning. You are ready to stretch yourself, try new things, share ideas, and spread your adventurous nature through the Odyssey community, whether on camping trips, during professional development, or in the classroom.

Overview of Responsibilities

- Design and implement two learning expeditions per year aligned with the Odyssey curriculum map and the EL core practices.
- Design and implement language arts curriculum aligned with the EL core practices and the Common Core State Standards.
- Develop strong relationships with students, families and staff.
- Consistently use instructional practices that are engaging and promote equity and high expectations.
- Utilize effective assessment practices to understand learning and to shape instruction.
- Help students understand, reflect on, and take responsibility for their own learning.
- Work with your teammate, intervention staff & administration to meet needs of ALL students.
- Communicate effectively with students, parents/guardians and other staff members.
- Demonstrate and foster a commitment to character through challenging academic work, service, adventure trips and crew.

Qualifications

- Must be highly qualified as defined by NCLB requirements
- Bachelor's degree

Benefits/Compensation

- Health benefits (Odyssey covers 80%)
- Long and Short term Disability Insurance (Odyssey covers in full)
- Dental Insurance (Odyssey covers in full)
- School Term: The term of employment consists of approximately 195 working days (as described in the school calendar) between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018. Employment hours will be approximately 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. five days per workweek. Staff business, professional development, adventure and school events may necessitate longer hours.
- Payday is on the 15th of every month
- Compensation range: Depends on Experience

Application & Hiring Process

Cover Letter

If you are interested in applying for this position, please submit a cover letter which includes reflection on this job opportunity. Help us understand what makes you a great match for Odyssey's elementary or intermediate grade lead teacher positions.

Additional Materials

Along with the letter, please email the following:

1. Up-to-date resume or curriculum vitae that gives a full picture of your professional and educational experiences in and outside of the field of education.
2. One piece of 'evidence' that may help set you apart from our strong candidate pool. A few ideas to get your juices flowing: high quality student work, videos, amazing unit plans, student quotes.

3. List of professional references including capacity in which you know each person, affiliation, current employment, email and phone contact information, acknowledgement that the school has permission to communicate with these individuals as part of the hiring process.

★ **Apply online via Recruitee -**

<https://odysseyschoolofdenver.recruitee.com/o/elementaryintermediate-crew-lead-teacher>

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Next Steps

Following receipt of your materials, we will contact you if we will invite you to the school for an initial visit which will include: interview with school leaders and a tour/visiting classrooms.

Additional Information

- [Odyssey's Website](#)
- [EL Education website](#)
- [Odyssey's EL Credentialing Portfolio](#)
- [Odyssey Facebook page](#)
- [Videos of our awesome kids & teachers](#)
- [Nitty Gritty Position Description](#)
- [Compensation Model](#)
- [Habits of Learning at Odyssey](#)
- [EL Core Practices](#)