



The Odyssey School of Denver is seeking candidates for a Middle School Science Specialist 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 middle school 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 19 years, enabling us to earn our EL Education 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 Science.**
You love how scientists think about and understand the world, and you want to share this passion with students. You believe that kids need experiences that help them uncover important, rigorous content. You have deep content knowledge in science - and can see how you might study current issues and topics in science as a way to meet standards.
- You think middle school 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 middle school students can do rigorous, collaborative, and high quality work. You value family involvement, and you have experience developing partnerships 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. Multi-tiered system of supports).
- Your organizational skills rock!**
Need to find that set of papers you collected yesterday? No problem! Need to help a students 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.

7) Qualifications

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

8) 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

Primary Responsibilities Include:

1) Plan and Implement Science Curriculum

- Design, develop, document, and evaluate curricula in line with the Colorado State Standards and Odyssey's curriculum map.
- Implement curriculum in various groupings every day.
- Develop and use of a variety of effective assessment practices to analyze student work and mastery of essential skills and concepts to shape instruction.
- Integration of the *Habits of Learning* to support student achievement.
- Collaborate effectively with teachers and leaders to ensure that the math program is aligned and implemented as effectively as possible.
- Work with the intervention and special education staff to support students with IEP's, 504's, and other educational needs.

2) Active Pedagogy

- Effective instructional practices- utilized to make the rich content of science come alive, ensure that all students think and participate, and allow the teacher to know all students and their thinking well.
- Utilizing inquiry-based approaches - learning involves understanding concepts, grasping procedures, and applying them to real-life contexts.
- Student Engaged Assessment: utilizes a variety of effective assessment practices to analyze student work and mastery of essential skills and concepts. Also uses practices that allow students to understand themselves as learners.

3) Culture and Character

- Commitment to character is fostered through challenging academic work, service, and the expectation that students are courteous, respectful, and compassionate.
- Build school culture and foster character through practices that bring the community together, promote shared understanding, and encourage all community members to become crew, not passengers;
- Foster a safe, respectful, and orderly community by communicating clear expectations for students' conduct, and utilizing practices that encourage students to take responsibility for their actions, learning, and shared space.
- Make use of effective classroom management practices and communicate with parents about behavioral issues as they arise.

- Make families welcome, know them well, engage them actively in the life of the school, and communicate regularly with them.
- Develop a professional community by sharing expertise, improving the school's program, building background knowledge in their disciplines, and modeling collaborative learning for students.

4) Adventure

- Work with Adventure Coordinator to schedule, plan, and attend up to 2 camping trips per year, as well as a variety of Adventure days throughout the year.

5) Professionalism & School Leadership

- Participate in strong professional culture that is sustained via collective leadership and action.
- Observe and support the Odyssey staff community courtesies.
- Identify areas for personal professional development and take responsibility to research or ask for staff development opportunities to develop these areas.
- Regularly attend and participate in Staff Council and Professional Development meetings. Avoid scheduling conferences, medical appointments, etc. during these times.
- Communicate regularly with students and families about achievement, growth, behavior and other topics using email, Jump rope, etc.
- Respond to requests for feedback and/or information in a timely manner.
- Be prompt for school, meeting and supervision responsibilities.
- Actively support school goals and policies including EL Education, character development, and safety.

Teachers are supervised by the Executive Director.

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 7th and 8th grade lead teacher position.

Additional Materials

Along with the letter, please upload 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.

★ Please upload these materials on the Recruitree website here - <https://odysseyschoolofdenver.recruitree.com/o/middle-school-science-teacher> ★

Next Steps

Following receipt of your materials, we will contact you if we think you may be a good fit for the position and the school. Thank you for your interest in the position.

Additional Information

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