

Job Description: Waldorf Elementary Teacher - Nature Studies & Sustainability Coordinator

Position Overview:

As a Waldorf Elementary Teacher specializing in Nature Studies, you hold a vital role in nurturing a profound bond between students and the natural world. Your mission is to lead children on captivating journeys of discovery, guiding them to explore and develop a relationship with the marvels of nature. Through rich, immersive experiences, you instill in them a deep sense of wonder, and reverence, and work to develop a sense of stewardship towards the environment.

In addition to enriching the educational experience of the WSB school community, this position serves as a catalyst for advancing eco-literacy and sustainability practices. You will lead the development, integration, and advocacy of environmental education initiatives within the curriculum and throughout the school's operations, fostering a culture of environmental stewardship and ecological awareness. This job is year-long with some over-the-summer stewardship requirements.

The Nature Studies and Sustainability Coordinator works with the following goals of the Strategic Plan:

PRIORITY C: RESPONSIBLE INNOVATION

Goal 4: Encourage, engage, and empower students to understand the natural world and become responsible environmental stewards.

PRIORITY E: INSTITUTIONAL AND FACILITY DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Goal 2: Develop and maintain facilities to support our environmental values.

Goal 3: Develop and maintain our physical environment to reflect our place-based education.

Key Responsibilities:**Classroom Instruction:**

- Lead engaging and interactive Nature Studies classes in keeping with Waldorf Pedagogy with grades Pre-K -8, creating a nurturing environment that encourages curiosity and exploration.
- Utilize a variety of teaching methods to cater to different learning styles and abilities, fostering a holistic understanding of natural phenomena that are age and Waldorf curriculum-appropriate.
- Educate students to develop a personal connection to nature and a sense of wonder and stewardship toward preserving biodiversity, native ecosystems, and sustainability.

Artistic Expression:

- Integrate artistic elements such as nature-inspired crafts, drawing, painting, and sculpting into Nature Studies lessons, allowing students to express their observations and experiences creatively.

Environmental Awareness: School and Land Stewardship

- Organize and lead outdoor excursions, nature walks, and field trips to provide students with direct experiences in natural environments in all weather conditions.
- Oversee the development, tending & maintenance of the gardens, trees, and paths.
- Actively engage students in the current maintenance of WSB's gardens, chickens, honeybee hive, and Children's Garden plantings.

Community Engagement & Service Projects

- Collaborate with fellow teachers to support their classroom instruction.

- Collaborate with parents and the larger community to create opportunities for interdisciplinary learning and community-based environmental initiatives by fostering relationships with local environmental organizations, botanical gardens, nature reserves, and farms.
- Coordinate the Green Team, a team of parent volunteers interested in environmental stewardship.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Education, Environmental Science, Biology, or related field (Master's degree preferred).
- Waldorf teacher certification or willingness to pursue Waldorf teacher training.
- Demonstrated experience in teaching Nature Studies or environmental education at the elementary level.
- Strong passion for nature, environmental stewardship, and experiential learning.
- Excellent communication skills and ability to collaborate effectively with colleagues, students, and parents.
- Commitment to Waldorf pedagogy, including a holistic approach to education and a reverence for the natural world.
- Knowledge of Chesapeake Bay region native plants and ecosystems
- Experience with grounds and garden maintenance

Benefits:

- Competitive salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. (\$40K-45K)
- Professional development opportunities, including Waldorf teacher training and environmental education workshops.
- Supportive school community committed to holistic education and environmental sustainability.
- Opportunities for personal and professional growth in a dynamic and inspiring educational environment.

