



Kindergarten / TK (Lower Group) Teacher/Administrator

Walden Center and School seeks a dynamic teacher for Lower Group, our mixed-age TK- Kindergarten class, to join our teaching collective in the fall of 2024. If you have a vision of building a close-knit community, of working with kids, parents, and a small committed team of educators, this may be the engaging, invigorating, satisfying job you are looking for.

Walden Center and School has been a leader in progressive elementary education and collective administration for over 65 years. Walden is an independent K-6 school where drama, music, language, and art sit alongside traditional academic subjects as our core curriculum. At Walden, we believe that children learn best when their academic, emotional, physical, and social needs are addressed, and families are an integral part of our community. Teachers take an individualized approach in designing their curricula in order to meet each child where they are developmentally. Also, the teachers run the school as a teacher-led collective, which provides them with autonomy, and the right and responsibility to make decisions that affect both their own classrooms and the whole school. We are passionate about working with the diversity of our current community and strive to support an environment that feels inclusive and intentional.

Our approach to learning encourages creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking as a means to help children develop a lifelong love of learning, a strong sense of community, and a powerful sense of self. We believe learning should be personalized, child-centered, and joyful.

Job Description

Lower Group (TK-K) Teacher:

This position is for teaching Lower Group using a self-developed curriculum. Our Lower Group teacher integrates arts and play-based learning in their lessons in a hands-on, meaningful way. Walden teachers practice flexibility, openness, and keen observation to fully engage students and support their joy of learning. This mixed grade class provides opportunities for community-building, leadership, and encourages playful and joyful learning for both Tk and Kindergarten students. We believe that this approach honors different learning needs and life experiences. We utilize various assessment tools to inform our teaching. We do not administer formal tests or give grades.

Lower Group Teacher Duties:

- Create an engaging and developmentally appropriate multi-sensory program for

- Kindergarten, and adapted TK curriculum
- Prepare hands-on, project-based lessons grounded in constructivist principles
- Plan and implement thoughtful academic, social-emotional, and anti-bias unit
- Foster a warm, welcoming, safe classroom community
- Ability to create a positive learning environment through consistent, fair, and respectful classroom management
- Supervising students when assigned duty
- Communicate effectively about student learning and behavior with parents and students' other teachers
- Contribute to weekly notes home regarding curriculum, special events, and classroom needs
- Attend parent-teacher conferences in the Fall and Spring and as needed throughout the year
- Plan and host a summer get-together for incoming Lower Grouper families
- Coordinate with the Admissions Coordinator to plan Lower Grouper child visits

Administration (Collective duties)

At Walden, there is no “principal” of the school. We operate as a collective, meaning that the teachers are solely responsible for all matters pertaining to the school's day-to-day operation and leadership functions. In this non-hierarchical structure, all teachers play an equal role in the running of the school, and decisions are made on a consensus model.

Your administrative duties increase over time, however as a member of the Collective:

- Actively participating in weekly staff meetings
- Planning and executing, and attending events during and after school hours
- Collaborating to ensure the smooth operation of the school. e.g. coordinating schedules, making admissions decisions, and communicating with families
- Implementing and managing school policies and procedures, to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment
- Participating in at three school committees, taking leadership roles over time
- Supporting other administrative needs as they arise
- Meet with a mentor once a week in first two years
- Evaluating, mentoring, and managing fellow employees after initial period
- Ultimate responsibility for community-wide issues, complaints, problems
- Managing the recruitment and hiring of new staff

Other Collective duties

- Collaborate with Collective members in consensus building process
- Reflects on and supports the school's vision and mission
- Supports ongoing school business after hours and on weekends, as needed
- Supports administrative goals generated in the meeting by taking on tasks
- Summer Duties: admissions support, ongoing committee projects, and other tasks; meets when needed

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree (or equivalent)

- 3+ years experience teaching at the lower elementary and/or preschool level
- Knowledge of child development
- Experience designing child-centered, age-appropriate, multi-sensory curriculum
- Experience implementing anti-bias approaches and curriculum
- Robust classroom management skills
- Ability to adapt instruction to meet the diverse needs of learners
- Familiarity with social-emotional learning curricula and/or anti-bullying programs
- Excellent communication skills
- Ability to be flexible

Preferred:

- Responsive Classroom experience
- Experience teaching lower elementary grades
- California Multiple-Subjects Credential

Compensation:

This is a full-time salaried position

Onsite 8:45-3:15p for teaching days and till 6p on Wednesdays for staff meetings

\$74,166/ 12-month salary

Benefits include Health, Vision, Dental, Retirement contribution, 11 PTO days

For more information about Walden, see our website: www.waldencenterschool.org.

Please send a resume and cover letter addressing your philosophy of education to [hiring@waldencenterschool.org](mailto: hiring@waldencenterschool.org) and add "Lower Group Teacher Hiring" to the subject line.