

JOB OPPORTUNITY AT FOUR RIVERS CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

2007-2008

High School Chemistry and Physics Teacher

Job Overview

Four Rivers Charter Public School is seeking a full-time teacher of Chemistry and Physics for grades 11 and 12 for the coming school year.

Four Rivers is a new charter public school serving Franklin County in western Massachusetts. Opened in Sept. 2003 with 7th and 8th grades, the school has added a grade each year, reaching full enrollment of 192 students in grades 7-12 in 2007-2008. The program is rigorous, innovative and active, and interest in the school is high. This position calls for an experienced teacher of chemistry and physics eager to develop the school's upper level science program and to work with colleagues to refine the programs and practices of our growing high school. Affiliated with Expeditionary Learning, Four Rivers is college preparatory and has a clear mission of educating young people for lives of learning and service. This is an unusual opportunity to join a talented and dedicated faculty in building an exemplary charter public school.

Responsibilities

- Teach two sections of 11th grade Chemistry and two sections of Physics in 12 grade. Each section has approximately 15 students and may be grouped by ability and interest. This includes designing the Chemistry program and building upon the school's first year of offering Physics in 2006-07.
- Serve as advisor to a crew of 11-12 students, meeting daily as a crew and communicating regularly with parents and colleagues about the progress of each member of the crew.
- Cover three additional class sessions each week, for advisory periods, study halls or help, and share common faculty duties on rotating basis, such as lunch and dismissal.
- Engage in curriculum, assessment, and program development during team times weekly, during professional development half-days once or twice monthly, and for the last two weeks in August.
- Participate in weekly faculty meetings after school, and undertake other meeting or committee work associated with the central role the faculty plays in developing the educational program and culture of the school. With colleagues, work on coordinating the school's science curriculum 7-12.
- Work with other faculty and Expeditionary Learning consultants to implement Expeditionary Learning core practices to fulfill the mission of Four Rivers.

Qualifications

- Successful experience teaching Chemistry and/or Physics to high school students, with a minimum of three years in a public high school.
- Strong background in the physical sciences and science education, as demonstrated through academic preparation, professional experience, and personal interests; strong skills with computer technology; and experience integrating science with other subjects.

- Personal qualities that exemplify the school’s emphasis on character development and community, including genuine interest in and connection with adolescents, eagerness to serve as an advisor, strong interpersonal skills, commitment to teamwork, and readiness to reflect and grow.
- Appreciation for the Expeditionary Learning (EL) design model, and commitment to work with colleagues and EL consultants to develop curriculum and implement EL core practices, including in-depth learning expeditions.
- Experience, training and interest in teaching a range of abilities within heterogeneously grouped classes, including students who are advanced and those with learning differences and special needs.
- Enthusiasm for the school’s mission and its themes of nature, technology and community; understanding of the school’s responsibilities as a charter public school; and the energy, flexibility, and sense of adventure required to work hard as a member of the core faculty in a young school.
- Massachusetts certification in Chemistry and/or Physics preferred; or readiness to become “highly qualified” by passing the Massachusetts teacher tests for Chemistry and Physics in the first six months.

Application Process

- Send cover letter, statement of qualifications, resume, and written references promptly to Edward Blatchford, Director, Four Rivers Charter Public School, 248 Colrain Road, Greenfield, MA 01301, or to eblatchford@fourriverscharter.org.
- The statement of qualifications should address specifically how the applicant believes he or she meets the qualifications included above or is in other ways qualified for the position.

Four Rivers Charter Public School Mission

Four Rivers Charter Public School is dedicated to educating young people for lives of learning and service. The school offers a rigorous academic program aligned with the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks and an emphasis on character development for moral and social responsibility. Three central themes--nature, technology and community--inform teaching and learning at the school, engaging students and teachers in a fundamental question of our times: how do we find the healthy, fruitful interrelationship of the natural world, technology in its many forms, and the human community? The school works closely with parents and seeks both to serve and to learn from the many resources of Franklin County.

For more information

- About the school: www.fourriverscharter.org
- About Expeditionary Learning Schools: www.elschools.org
- About Massachusetts charter schools: www.masscharterschools.org; www.doe.mass.edu/charter

Four Rivers Charter Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, special need, proficiency in English language or a foreign language, or prior academic achievement. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250.