

Columbus Jewish Day School Full-Time Faculty Position: Learning Specialist

Purpose

Columbus Jewish Day School is seeking a creative and motivated educator who is looking for an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of students and their families. This person works closely with the school Principal, and classroom teachers, parents, outside professionals, and reports directly to the Head of School.

As a key resource person, the Learning Specialist helps students understand their learning styles and supports teachers in working with students with different learning needs. S/he identifies the full range of needs from accommodations to extensions; evaluates and reviews psychological and cognitive testing completed by outside specialists; develops strategies to meet the needs of identified students and plans for any necessary accommodations, designs professional development for new and veteran teachers regarding learning styles, coordinates meetings with families and teachers to discuss accommodations and recommendations, coordinates out of school tutors and faculty, and provides student remediation as necessary.

Required Qualifications:

- 4 or more years' experience (preferably with grades K-6) working with students with learning differences including dyslexia, dysgraphia, ADHD, and giftedness.
- Positive attitude, excellent written and verbal skills, strong organizational skills and success working in a setting that requires collaboration, cooperation, and collegiality
- Undergraduate Degree or higher in Special Education or related field
- Excellent communication and conflict resolution skills with children and adults

Excellent Candidates will bear:

- Knowledge of progressive education teaching techniques and ability to address learning needs in the context of a progressive education
- Expertise in multi-sensory language and reading instruction
- Ability and the recognition to develop positive relationships with parents
- Effective and timely communication in person, through email and through voice mail with varied school constituencies
- Ability to work collaboratively as part of a team
- Facility to create a positive, nurturing environment for students
- Focus beyond remediation, towards building self-awareness in students to help them become more self-reliant, efficient, life-long learners with strong self-esteem
- A love and understanding of children and their developmental stages
- Knowledge of current best practices in elementary school education
- Strong organizational skills and ability to prioritize
- High level of stamina, joy, and self-initiation: a positive attitude with demonstrated professionalism, responsibility, and ethical practice

Responsibilities:

- Conduct formal and informal assessment of academic skills and utilize specific and appropriate strategies to assess learning strengths and challenges of students K-6
- Interpret reports, provide case management and coordinate services, goals and communication among learning team
- Administer assessment tools, track student progress and interpret results
- Initiate and coordinate Child Studies
- Develop instructional learning plans with long-term goals and specific objectives for identified students, including recommendation of in-school or outside resources.
- Provide written reports to school and parents with assessment results and recommendations of appropriate diagnostic testing and remedial programs for school-related learning problems.
- Direct one-on-one or small group instruction to students who need learning support in grades K through grade 6.
- Initiate and attend parent conferences and team meetings as needed.
- Coordinate and facilitate communication between student, family, school and other involved professionals and provide regular monthly student progress report in writing.
- Consult with teachers, parents, administration and outside professionals regarding special learning needs of students and to prescribe modification plan, strategies and materials for classroom and home interventions.
- Maintain confidential student records and keep accurate documentation of sessions, meetings and other communications appropriate to ethical and professional standards.
- Assist teachers with understanding psycho-educational evaluations and developing practical classroom applications for the recommendations made in those evaluations.
- Create and maintain a school resource detailing community support resources for children with learning difficulties to be used by the administration, parents and teachers.
- Provide in-service staff training opportunities as appropriate.
- Participate in faculty committees and attend all faculty meetings. Attend grade meetings when appropriate.
- In collaboration with the Principal, counsel individuals and small groups of children toward social and emotional growth.
- Provides consultation with and trains teachers, parents and staff regarding student learning, student behavior and the developmental needs of children and young adolescents.
- Coordinating learning support with teachers and outside tutors/interventionists, referring children and parents to special programs, specialists, and outside agencies when appropriate.
- Stay abreast of learning and instructional methodologies, including instructional technology
- Supervision and/or participation in non-academic activities, i.e. lunch, recess, morning arrival and afternoon dismissal

Salary:

CJDS offers competitive compensation and a comprehensive benefits package.

To Apply:

Please submit a resume with a short cover letter expressing why you are seeking this position, and include a brief description of your educational approach.

Please submit applications to:

Dr. Tali Zerkowicz, Head of School at: tzerkowicz@cjds.org, with the subject heading: Learning Specialist

About CJDS:

Interested candidates are encouraged to review CJDS's curricular philosophy at www.cjds.org
CJDS is a K-6 Jewish Day School that offers a dynamic, progressive, integrated K-6 experiential education, where every child is well known and a valued community member.

CJDS lives its mission of providing each student with the Intellectual Sophistication, Social Responsibility and Personal Authenticity they need to be creative participants in and active contributors to complex contemporary American life. *CJDS is dedicated to providing equal employment opportunities to all personnel and applicants for employment without regard to race; color; religion; sex; national origin; handicap or disability; sexual orientation; or status as a veteran, Vietnam era, or special disabled veteran.*

CJDS is located in New Albany, OH (20 minutes from downtown Columbus). The work environment is noted for being family-friendly and flexible. The feeling in the school is joyous, collaborative, and innovative. Our curricular philosophy emphasizes community-based, interdisciplinary and experiential learning. Collaboration and reflective practice are integral to the climate at CJDS.