

**Merit Academy is currently seeking a PE TEACHER starting this 2024-2025 school year.**

**ABOUT MERIT ACADEMY:**

Merit Academy is a new school-of-choice in the beautiful mountain community of Woodland Park, CO. This classical, Core-Knowledge® school is currently in the start-up process, with doors opened in August, 2021 at max capacity of 184 with over 70 students on the waitlist. We currently have 430 full and part time students, grades K-9. For our fourth year, we are anticipating over 500 full- and part-time students, grades K-11. There is great need and desire for a classical, public school option in our area.

Merit Academy will serve grades K-11 during this fourth year, growing to K-12 over the first five years. At maturity, Merit Academy has smaller class sizes and a purposeful curriculum for enhanced performance and growth. We are also have great homeschool enrichment opportunities with Merit Academy.

Merit Academy is unique in that it is situated in an area that provides many opportunities for tremendous Rocky Mountain Enhancements. Additionally, to honor our rural culture and demographics, there is a “rocky mountain version” of a uniform, unique to what you may find in an urban and traditional classical school.

Merit incorporates a vertical and horizontal integration within academics and the House System on various Fridays. This careful design not only allows team cohesion among students of all ages and abilities in community and school projects, but it also provides our valued educators with additional collaboration and planning time.

*Vision:* To graduate students prepared for success in a free society, promoting civic responsibility and contributing their talents in a flourishing republic by pursuing beauty, truth, and good.

*Mission:* Merit Academy will cultivate the minds and nurture the hearts of K-12 youth in the Ute Pass/Woodland Park region with instruction in the principles of moral character and civic responsibility.

**POSITION:**

Physical Education teachers are critical to the successful growth of Merit Academy. In that, it is important that candidates are a solid fit for the school, community, and curriculum (and vice versa).

Teachers will work with the Dean of Upper School and Headmaster through the development and growth of Merit Academy. Our teachers will bring to our students and our school poise, joy, respect and an ability to cultivate the positive relationships needed to instill confidence and trust. This includes supporting the school’s patriotic founding, studying extensively this great Republic’s founding. In that, Merit Academy is also a school that believes the “hot” and “controversial” topics of today’s world are best taught at home, allowing the school to focus on the academics to which we are committed.

It is important that our teachers are courageous, personable, encouraging, and well-spoken. The ideal candidate will create a classroom of inquiry-based, modern Socratic teaching approaches in classical education. Attention is on an intensive, classical, Core Knowledge academics. The school culture is one of trust, respect, joy, and deep engagement in one another and in our community. In summary, our staff, parents, and volunteers will inspire students to pursue excellence and put forth their best efforts in all aspects of life.

The ideal candidates will embrace the “rocky mountain version” of traditional-classical education that makes Merit Academy unique. Merit educators are passionate for the Core Knowledge® curriculum, liberal arts, Merit’s vision and mission, and our five virtues of valor, perseverance, responsibility, goodness, and friendship. Staff also embrace and support the ideas and philosophy of America’s Founding. Teachers will be subject matter experts in classical education, Core Knowledge®, curriculum standards, performance assessments, and other required educational components.

#### **DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Identifies with and adheres to the vision of Merit Academy and our principles of classical education
- Bring to life many aspects of physical education: weight lifting, team sports, individual sports, outdoor education
- Teach students proper technique, rules, and guidelines of various sports and nutrition
- Implements curriculum and instruction in a matter consistent with Merit Academy
- Support discipline procedures, including requiring students be respectful of teachers, staff, and volunteers
- Provide clear expectations and effectively redirect misbehavior
- Evaluate each student’s progress on a regular basis and communicate this progress to the student, parents, academic team and Deans.
- Works with Deans in student performance assessments, and achievement of student and professional objectives

#### **QUALITIES & CHARACTERISTICS:**

- Professional and understanding when dealing with concerns of parents, families and fellow staff
- Moral character, acts with integrity and wisdom.
- Hold students accountable for expectations of excellence in both their behavior and the subject
- Holds a conviction and dedication to school choice, our great American Republic, and Merit’s vision and mission.
- Emboldens students, parents, and associated volunteers to love learning, embrace our virtues, and promote a life of responsible citizenship in a flourishing republic.

#### **KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:**

- Expertise in teaching Physical Education or coaching sports
- Ability to teach and engage in beginning and intermediate PE or sports to students
- A commitment to classical education, school choice, and the positive generative culture of Merit Academy
- Understanding of classical education, and classical education’s history and foundation within Western civilization
- Incorporate various student performance assessment tools to ensure student and school performance objectives are met
- Able to communicate with poise, winsomeness, kindness, and humility

#### **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Bachelor's degree or higher in the respective field (Physical Education or similar)
- Understanding of sports/athletics and how to coach students in these fields
- Must love working with students
- Ability to redirect unacceptable behavior, supporting excellence of conduct
- An understanding of charter schools or other schools-of-choice
- Works well with students, staff, and parents
- Enthusiastic about and able to teach with inquiry-based strategies
- Conviction in Merit Academy's vision, mission and in a classical, liberal arts education
- Ability to maintain classroom decorum
- Strength of character
- Desire for professional development, growth and mentorship

#### **REPORTING STRUCTURE:**

Reports to the Dean of Upper School. Works side-by-side with teachers and additional staff.

#### **PAY & BENEFITS:**

There are 165 contact days and 14 in-service days for full-time teachers (19 for new teachers). Enhancement courses to equal full-time status

- \$42,000-\$58,000
- School holidays and breaks
- Additional 10 days personal/sick leave
- 15% Awards for educational grants written by, received, and managed by employees (prior approval for each application)
- Health insurance coverage (equivalent to \$7,800 annually) or \$300/mo in-lieu-of health insurance for staff who have ample coverage through another party
- Dental insurance (equivalent to \$420 annually)
- Optional vision insurance
- \$40,000 Life insurance coverage
- Retirement benefits through PERA (a match of 21% of employee salary paid by Merit Academy to Employee's retirement account through PERA)
- Possible bonuses throughout the year
- Childcare provided during PD/Inservice Days

#### **CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT**

- Offers of employment are conditional subject to successful background and reference check
- This is a salaried position, exempt from overtime.
- Employees are at-will employees
- As required by the IRCA, employees must be legally eligible to be employed in the U.S.A.

#### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE (SUBMIT TO [HR@MERIT.ACADEMY](mailto:HR@MERIT.ACADEMY)) :**

- Cover letter
- Resume/CV
- Minimum of three reference letters within the past two years
- Unofficial transcripts and any applicable certifications