

Merit Academy is currently seeking a Jr High/High School Art Teacher to join our growing faculty, 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 over 430 full and part time students, grades K-10. For our fourth year, we are anticipating over 520 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 will have two classes per grade, with purposefully smaller class sizes. Merit is also growing our 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.

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:

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 (Elementary principal) and Headmaster (founder/superintendent) 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.

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.

* Merit Academy is hiring teachers to provide further ability of growth in our program, within our low student-teacher ratio.

- Identifies with and adheres to the vision of Merit Academy and our principles of classical education
- 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.
- 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 students at the Upper School (Jr High/High School) level
- Ability to engage students and families in our intensive, classical curriculum
- A commitment to Core Knowledge®, 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

Additional opportunities/positions:

HS English, Math, World History, Elementary Art

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Implement art theory and art classes like clay, paint, sketching, etc, along with the history for each of these modalities.
- Provide opportunities for students to engage in different art projects throughout the year
- Understands child growth and development, incorporates that knowledge in planning and implementation of curriculum for best retention and comprehension
- Identifies with and adheres to the vision of Merit Academy and our principles of classical education
- Teaches subject areas in accordance to curriculum guidelines through Core Knowledge sequence and with guidance of the Dean of Grammar
- Convey knowledge to students, meet each child's academic needs in collaboration with the academic team
- Implements curriculum and instruction in a matter consistent with Merit Academy
- Supports students in growth and mastery of the classical liberal arts study
- Support discipline procedures, including requiring students be respectful of teachers, staff, and volunteers
- Tolerate no cruelty among students: support respect, understanding, and civic responsibility which includes interaction with others
- Provide clear expectations and effectively redirect misbehavior
- Assign, correct, and grade assignments, quizzes, tests.
- Evaluate each student's progress on a regular basis and communicate this progress to the student, parents, academic team and Deans.
- Cultivate the fundamental virtues of Merit Academy
- Embrace the school's vision and mission
- Works with Dean of Grammar in student performance assessments, and achievement of student and professional objectives

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree or higher in Art or similar study
- Must love working with elementary age students, their thirst for knowledge, and their wonderful, endearing persons
- An appreciation of charter schools or other schools-of-choice
- Works well with students, staff, and parents

- Enthusiastic about and able to teach with the classical curriculum, inquiry-based strategies, projects of learning, fitted to each student's ability
- 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
- Appropriate Colorado Licensure, Out of State Licensure, or a passing score of the appropriate Praxis exam, including READ Act requirements.

REPORTING STRUCTURE:

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

PAY & BENEFITS:

There are 165 contact days and 12 in-service days for teachers. (14 for new hires) Additional in-service (voluntary) or summer work may also include a stipend or comp time, TBD.

- \$42,000-\$58,000, depending on experience
- School holidays and breaks
- Additional 10 days personal/sick leave
- Awards for grants
- Health insurance
- Dental insurance
- Optional vision insurance
- Retirement benefits
- Employee Assistance Program
- Childcare provided during in-service/PD days.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

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

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Please submit the following required documents by email

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