



Position Title: Eighth Grade Social Studies Teacher, Middle School Advisor

Date Modified: March 18, 2019

FLSA Classification: Exempt

Reports to: Head of Middle School

Position Purpose

This full-time position requires the teacher to teach three sections of social studies in a 1:1 iPad environment. The eighth grade social studies curriculum focuses on American history and civics from the establishment of the U.S. Constitution through the civil rights movement. Using a series of essential questions and a blend of project-based learning and teacher-guided instruction, the course challenges students to think critically, analyze information, and apply knowledge to new circumstances. The social studies curriculum extends instruction on and skills practice with the document-based question (DBQ) process introduced in seventh grade, and students write a series of DBQ essays, both as assignments and in exam settings.

The social studies teacher is responsible for the curriculum associated with the annual one-week eighth grade trip to Washington D.C. and Gettysburg, PA. This person is the lead teacher on the trip and prepares students in advance for the historical sites they will visit and for their roles as memorial tour guides during the trip.

The social studies teacher co-teaches with the English teacher three sections of speech each year. Speech is an every-other-day course that serves two purposes. In the fall, eighth graders use the time to prepare for the high school application process, and the social studies teacher leads them through the development of interview and presentation skills. In the winter and spring, the time is used for service learning purposes, and the teacher (along with others) serves as a service learning facilitator for a small group of eighth graders. The students and their facilitator work at an assigned agency each Monday morning throughout the third trimester. During third trimester speech classes, the social studies and English teachers guide students through research and writing processes as each student identifies a topic specific to his or her assigned service agency and completes a research paper.

The social studies teacher also serves as an advisor to a small group of eighth graders. The advisor works as part of a team to support the diverse learning needs of students and is a key point of contact for parents. Advisors attend daily chapel with their advisees and meet with them during a 25-minute mini period four days each week. Advisors also prepare for and participate in parent/student conferences twice a year.

Essential Functions

The social studies teacher collaborates with the teaching team to promote reading, analysis, writing and acquisition of vocabulary across the grade level. The social studies curriculum emphasizes an analysis of primary source documents and an understanding of the events that have shaped American history. The



school places tremendous value on creativity, collaboration, and self-motivation. The ideal candidate is excited about humanities and teams with the social studies teachers, the grade level teachers and English teachers to enhance and refine the current curriculum. The teacher also partners with peers on projects, performances and research when the curriculum lends itself to such activities. The school supports teachers with such resources as a technology coordinator, learning specialist, counselor and a drama specialist. All teachers are also members of a vertical team, which monitors and advances the quality of the overall program and the progress and success of its students. Additionally, all teachers are expected to keep daily lesson plans and to effectively use RenWeb, eBackpack and various other tools. Teachers electronically record attendance and gradebooks. Each trimester, the teacher is also expected to write thoughtful and meaningful comments that reflect students' progress and give students direction for improvement. The teacher attends weekly grade-level meetings and monthly divisional, vertical and all-employee meetings. St. John's expects all faculty to participate in ongoing professional growth.

Qualifications

- The ideal candidate will have previous experience teaching middle school or high school social studies, history or humanities, including a research-based writing process.
- A four-year college degree is required; an advanced degree preferred.
- A writing sample will be required.

Physical Requirements and Work Environment

Work in an environment dealing with a wide variety of challenges and specified deadlines.

- Ability to work standing for extended periods of time.
- Ability to use technology routinely, especially interactive whiteboard and iPad.
- Work primarily in a traditional, climate-controlled classroom environment; most likely will share a classroom with a fellow Middle School teacher.
- Participate as a chaperone on field trips and overnight grade-level trips as necessary.
- St. John's is an independent, coeducational school serving 500 students in grades pre-k through eighth. Located in a park-like setting on 10 acres in East Dallas, the school offers a spacious, up-to-date facility with colorful décor that is stimulating to students.

In our commitment to diversity and equity, St. John's Episcopal School does not discriminate regarding race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, age, genetic information, disability, pregnancy, marital status, religion, military status, and/or any protected category. This commitment extends to our employment, educational, admission, and financial aid policies, and other school-administered programs.