Job Description: Middle School Social Studies Teacher

Campus: Johannesburg Campus
Direct Supervisor: Middle School Principal
Starting Date: 1 August 2015

Position Overview:

The Middle School Social Studies teacher will serve as a core member of the Middle School team committed to fulfilling the school's vision, mission, core values, and goals collaborating regularly with the other members of the team to plan integrated units, activities, and discuss students to promote the educational needs of all Middle School learners. While also serving as a core advisor to one fourth of the students in the grade level, this position requires an acute understanding of the developmental uniqueness of the middle level learner and a desire to work with and advocate for this age group.

AISJ is dedicated to providing a student-centered, collaborative and cross-curricular approach in support of literacy in all subject areas. Such an approach, we believe, will best prepare and empower them to become responsible, lifelong learners and competent, compassionate, effective communicators. The philosophy of the AISJ Social Studies program is to have students acquire both core knowledge and a firm grasp of reasoning and practice in inquiry and research. Hands on learning activities and assessment that make connections to student's world around them are essential to our program; preferably through integrated subject units. Students should become concerned and committed global citizens, and appreciate the contributions various groups have made to advance civilization. Students should develop an understanding and appreciation of the uniqueness of social sciences. The ultimate goal of AISJ's social studies program is to produce informed citizens who make responsible decisions. To this end, we have designated eight major standards that encompass the study of history, historical analysis, geography, culture, government, economics, technology, and current events.

Qualifications:

- Current teaching certification appropriate to age level and subject specializations
- A minimum of an undergraduate degree in Education or the area of expertise required
- Previous teaching experience, and strong knowledge in the area of specializations at the required levels of study
- A belief in middle school philosophy and an ability to communicate well with middle school students
- Willingness to supervise co-curricular roles
- A positive attitude and strong interpersonal skills
- Expertise in building active, collaborative classroom programs which encourage problem solving, critical thinking skills, and which develop a sense of classroom community and trust
- A solid understanding of a middle school organization, programs and students
- A proven ability to differentiate instruction and integrate learning

Preferred Skills and Experience:

- Strong organizational and time management abilities
- A team player with the ability to take initiative

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Together we dare to imagine, inspire to succeed, and courageously make a difference.
• Understanding of and experience using “Understanding by Design”
• Experience with service learning
• An ability to multi-task
• Experience with and/or understanding of:
  o Curriculum and assessment development (particularly standards based assessment)
  o Using hands on activities and assessment to help students make connections to the world around them
  o Technology integration
  o Big 6 research skills

**General Teaching Responsibilities**
The Middle School Social Studies teacher will teach five periods of an eight period rotating block schedule; four of which are Social Studies to 8th grade students. *Additionally this teacher will teach one section of another subject to 7th or 8th grade students; either ELL or an Elective. The assignment of this subject is dependent upon the strengths of the successful candidate and will be made by the principal.

A 40 minute Advisory period, called “Imbizo,” happens four times per week and is also included in the teacher’s responsibilities. Weekly team meetings will occur (or more frequently if required) and common planning time is embedded in the master schedule for all core teams.

AISJ values continuous improvement and provides weekly professional growth and collaboration time from 1:45 pm to 4:00 pm on Wednesdays.

In addition to the subject responsibilities, teachers at AISJ are welcomed into a collegial and collaborative working environment. In support of this teachers are expected to:

• Communicate and liaise on a regular basis with fellow department/grade members with regard to planning, assessment, parent and community contact, subject organization and classroom issues such including discipline, expectations and routines
• Communicate and liaise with other school colleagues in an effort to promote and establish integrative links and/or awareness
• Take an active role in behavioral management and pastoral care of class and advisory groups
• Attend and constructively contribute in staff and department/grade meetings
• Assist in supervision of student breaks
• Coordinate class activities as deemed necessary
• Contribute to and support school improvement plans and initiatives
• Maintain up-to-date records of assessment, attendance, planning, reports, conferences, and communication with parents
• Establish regular links with your parent community to ensure that parents are kept well informed about student progress
• Assist, as required, in the development of curricular materials
• Act as a resource/contact/support for new staff members (i.e. curriculum, schedules, procedures)
• Lead co-curricular after school activities
• Chaperone annual Classroom Without Walls class trip
• Participate in and assist with school events as required

**School Hours:**
- 7:10 am to 3:30 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
- 7:10 am to 4:00 pm Wednesday

**Contact:** For more information contact Mr. Andrew Ferguson, Middle School Principal, at recruitment@aisj-jhb.com