



Interdisciplinary Courses Designer (Grades 6-8)

Position Type: Consultant

Location: Flexible, with some travel to school sites in Los Angeles and Kansas City

Our purpose at Citizens of the World Charter Schools is to realize human potential by strengthening the bonds among us and developing true citizens of the world. In this work, we are guided by our core values of Excellence, Authenticity, Diversity, Community and Change, and our operating norms that reflect a commitment to personal and professional growth, including operating as learners, with curiosity, integrity and humility.

The mission of Citizens of the World Charter Schools is to impact and expand the conversation about what an excellent education contains, requires and accomplishes. Citizens of the World schools challenge students to realize their full potential and thrive in a diverse society. We are public schools open to all, committed to serving diverse communities throughout the U.S. with schools currently in Los Angeles and New York, and Kansas City. We develop sophisticated thinkers who master content and have a courageous and compassionate sense of responsibility for themselves and others. Our schools are in strong demand: in 2015, we had 10 times more interest than space. Our classrooms are challenging – and joyful – learning environments that engage children through fun projects tailored to their personal experiences, strengths and needs. Our teachers take the time to get to know each child as an individual. We empower children to think critically *and* learn to engage respectfully and productively with fellow students by developing their capacity to enter into and understand the lives of others. Our goal is for student “success” to include mastery of both content and emotions, so that students can meaningfully connect with each other, be part of any community, and courageously decide who they are in the world and how they want the world to be.

In this work, we:

- Prepare students to become citizens of the world in an ever-changing future.
- Promote academic rigor and experiential learning to support and develop children's natural intellectual curiosity.
- Embrace a constructivist, project-based learning approach to teaching and learning.
- Develop each child's potential to live as a learner, both in school and out.
- Reflect, welcome and celebrate the community's diversity.
- Strengthen the bonds among members of the school community and beyond.

Redesigning a New Middle School Model for CWC

The divisiveness in our country is one of many factors of the fundamental need to rethink our schools. We want to create learning environments where diverse communities come together for understanding, empathy, and action.

We believe that we have the opportunity to create microcosms of what is possible, where our students can be change-makers, who will create ripple effects beyond the classroom walls.

CWC Schools will launch a new middle school model in the fall of 2019. This will be grounded in the following design anchors: developing the full self, building a community for equity, fostering agency, and ensuring authenticity and relevance. Flowing from these anchors come a series of promising new school features, including interdisciplinary courses that will focus on critical thinking and deeper learning.

This new model will be a transformational experience for students, and the (Interdisciplinary) Courses Designer will play a critical role in creating a new generation of lifetime learners and leaders. The Courses Designer will also be a member of the Design Team.

This team of driven, and disciplined innovators will build, test, and iterate on major components of the new school model during the year ahead. They will also collaborate with school site teams and consultants to use learning from research and development cycles, in order to drive the vision of the program.

Position Overview

The Courses Designer will create high-quality, interdisciplinary curriculum for 6th-8th grades, ensuring that it is aligned to CCSS and NGSS, and is relevant, engaging, and fosters deep learning and thinking. This position is an opportunity to develop a program component that will be inspiring and authentic for students at a time where they are experiencing monumental change, and often do not feel motivated by the learning experiences offered by traditional middle school programs. It is also a unique chance to be a member of an inspiring Design Team, and participate in thoughtful and innovative research and development cycles, as real-time pilot data from students and staff impact the vision of the program.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the Courses Designer include (but are not limited to):

- Develop exemplary curriculum materials that include scope and sequences, unit plans, and corresponding materials that are interdisciplinary in design.
- Create assessment models that show rigorous outcomes aligned to common core standards but transcend traditional standardized assessment methods.
- Ensure that the middle school design anchors are embedded within the interdisciplinary curriculum and assessments.
- Ensure that there is thoughtful integration of content knowledge, skills, and understanding within the Courses design that enable the development of the student graduate dispositions.
- Participate in research and development cycles, incorporating real-time feedback from pilots with students, staff and the Design Team.
- Collaborate with and provide feedback to other members of the Design Team, in order to push thinking and learning, and construct a new vision for middle school.
- Revise and help codify best practices to aid in the scaling of the new middle school model.
- Embody CWC's core values of excellence, diversity, authenticity, community and change throughout all aspects of the work, and with all stakeholder groups.

Skills and Characteristics

- You believe that equity is essential to school design and you are committed to a model where students develop greater agency and are empowered to be change-makers.
- You have experience in working successfully with heterogeneous groups of an ethnically, culturally and economically diverse student, family and staff population.
- You are passionate about the constructivist theory of learning and love to design and plan robust and authentic content units within an interdisciplinary structure.
- You may have a specific passion and content expertise such as middle school or high school science, math, or humanities.
- You believe in the integration of social-emotional learning and academics.
- You have experience in writing curriculum that is focused in the development of skills such as creative thinking, communication, self-management or systems thinking, in addition to standards-based content.

- You are a strong critical thinker. You are able to synthesize large amounts of information and work independently to create products that are well-aligned to the program model.
- You have exceptional organizational skills and are able to execute tasks with an acute attention to detail.
- You are an entrepreneurial and ambitious educator with a passion for innovation and an eagerness to strategically redesign schools.
- You embrace change, are a team player, are flexible, and strive for continuous development.

Qualifications

Candidates must have:

- Bachelor's degree from a competitive college or university
- 7+ years of relevant work experience, including at least two years of highly successful teaching experience
- Strong experience in interdisciplinary curriculum and instruction, preferably as an instructional leader, program designer, or design consultant, within grades 6-10
- Excellent time management skills and ability to multi-task and prioritize work
- Attention to detail and problem solving skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Strong organizational and planning skills
- Aptitude in decision-making and problem-solving
- Los Angeles is the preferred location for this role, but we will consider candidates who live outside of this area. If you do not live in Los Angeles, there may be a travel requirement for this position. Travel will consist of visiting CWC schools in Los Angeles and Kansas City to observe, prototype, or work with small groups of students/staff during the piloting phase of the Courses component.

Compensation

CWCS offers competitive salaries commensurate with experience, and a comprehensive benefits package. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and, as an organization serving a diverse group of students, we work to reflect this diversity in our staff as well. We value the perspective and insight that a diverse staff brings.

To Apply:

Please send a resume, and cover letter to:

buildthefuture@cwcschools.org

Please include 'Courses Designer' in the subject line.