

PENINSULA SCHOOL
Head Classroom Teacher/Upper School
(Full-Time Position)

An exciting opportunity to work in a school community committed to progressive education, diversity, and social justice. Peninsula School, one of the oldest progressive day schools in California, is renowned as a place where students love to come to school each day and where academics, the arts, and student's social and emotional development are all equally valued. Founded in 1925, Peninsula has 252 children, 3-14 years of age. Our supportive and welcoming staff invites enthusiastic and dedicated applicants to join our teaching staff in inspiring children to love learning.

Upper School Program (5th-8th)

The Upper School consists of a fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade class, each with about 21 students. Each class has a Head Classroom Teacher and one Teaching Assistant. The Upper School teaching team has two additional head teachers without specific classroom assignments - the "Swing" Teacher works cooperatively with the classroom teachers and teaches his/her own units within each grade level, and the Upper School Science Teacher.

The members of the Upper School staff work closely together, sequencing curriculum, coordinating calendars and often co-teaching. The six head teachers share the responsibility of the math program for the four grades. Twice-yearly camping trips are an essential part of the Upper School curriculum. As a group, the Upper School teachers take responsibility for the well being of all the students in the Upper School. The Upper School program is provided autonomy and flexibility in their classrooms to enable them to best serve the needs of their students.

Upper School Head Classroom Teacher - General Responsibility

- Support and promote Peninsula School's mission and values
- Provide a flexible, progressive program for children using instructional methods and materials that are responsive and appropriate to the intellectual, social and emotional needs of students and that fosters their positive learning and personal growth
- Create and maintain a welcoming, safe, equitable and respectful learning environment that honors and values the diversity of the student population
- Develop and implement teaching units that critically examine multiple cultures and social justice
- Build class community by fostering students' social/emotional learning

Specific Duties and Responsibilities

- Recognize and address the unique needs and varied learning styles of all children, ensuring each child's progress in all areas
- Plan and implement a cooperative curriculum that fosters problem solving, creativity, critical thinking, and intellectual curiosity
- Clearly articulate program and developmental goals to parents and teaching assistants
- Monitor and document student learning
- Clearly communicate student learning to parents
- Maintain open lines of communication with parents
- Work collaboratively and constructively with colleagues
- Provide a model for positive leadership
- Remain current on educational research, topics and progressive practices relevant to adolescent education
- Work collaboratively with school specialists

- Help students to learn to write clearly, to think both rationally and intuitively, to read and retrieve information and to explore their place in the world
- Plan and implement a 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th grade math program
- Organize and lead a camping trip in the fall and in the spring

Other Responsibilities

- Meet with parents for conferences formally twice a year and provide additional conferences and communication as required or requested
- Organize and facilitate group parent meetings at least twice a year
- Attend staff meetings, inservice meetings, and other meetings and school events as applicable

Qualifications and Requirements

B.A. required. Passionate about working with 9-14 year old students. Experience in negotiating pre-teen issues and skilled in building a close rapport with adolescents. Ability to work with a diverse population. Embracing progressive education ideals. Caring, flexible, creative, organized, good judgment, sense of humor. Current first aid, CPR, and/or lifeguard certification(s) a plus.

Peninsula School is an equal opportunity employer and we actively promote the principles and practices of diversity throughout the school community. We offer competitive compensation and a progressive community dedicated to learning and engaged citizenship. We encourage people of under-represented groups to apply (<http://www.peninsulaschool.org/diversity2012.htm>). Please send cover letter and resume, in MS word or PDF format, to misha.m@peninsulaschool.org or fax to (650) 325-1313 by April 5, 2018.

Revised 2/18