



Early Elementary Music Teacher (Part-Time) Job Description

Are you an experienced, imaginative, and collaborative educator who believes in progressive gifted education? Do you enjoy creating meaningful learning experiences, and being part of a diverse, supportive and talented community? If so, please consider joining our team at Tessellations. We are currently accepting applications for a part-time Early Elementary Music Teacher position for grades TK-1st, to start in August. Competitive compensation available.

Tessellations is a modern, innovative Preschool-8th non-profit school for gifted learners based in Cupertino, CA. Our mission is to provide challenging experiential education that recognizes and nurtures the individual strengths of gifted learners, empowering them to confidently express who they are, pursue a meaningful life, and advance an equitable and sustainable world.

At Tessellations, community is a core value. A strong community was instrumental in launching our school during the pandemic and has facilitated our rapid growth and success since then. Our team consists of passionate, qualified and dedicated staff from diverse backgrounds and includes a nationally renowned gifted expert. We believe that it is time to open a new chapter in 21st century gifted education by forging a model that fosters a cultural ecosystem within the school that promotes innovative thinking and intellectual risk taking. Moving on from an antiquated model born during the industrial revolution, we favor transferable skills over compliance and rote memorization, and collaboration over competition. We believe that assessments should function as guidance for depth and complexity of learning rather than for judgment or sorting.

Hours: 8 hours/week (~20% FTE), one day/week or two half-days

Employment Category: Non-exempt

Reports to: Director of Primary School

Primary Responsibilities

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Educational Instruction

- Build and lead a general music program for students in Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and 1st grade.
- Build students' foundational musicianship—including rhythm, pitch, solfège, listening, ensemble habits, creativity, and foundational music literacy—to prepare them for a successful transition into music instruction in later grades.

- Collaborate with other teachers and staff to integrate music into the broader curriculum and support student learning.
- Implement lessons, activities, and instruction while adapting to the intellectual, physical, and social-emotional needs of students as they arise.
- Use a variety of teaching methods, including hands-on activities, multimedia presentations, and performance opportunities, to meet the diverse needs of all students.
- Make regular and accurate assessments of a lesson's effectiveness and the extent to which it achieved its instructional outcomes.
- Regularly use and maintain documentation of multiple forms of assessment to gauge student learning and inform next steps in teaching.
- Maintain effective organizational systems in physical and digital space.
- Maintain and utilize an effective information system on student progress and learning.
- Maintain engaging and organized learning spaces that reflect school identity, program values, and student identities, voices, and learning.
- Prepare progress reports and report cards.
- Plan, lead, and support events that showcase student learning and work with families and community.

Community of Belonging

- Encourage and motivate students to participate in music class and pursue their musical interests.
- Help students build confidence and joy in musical expression and performance.
- Develop and maintain a positive and inclusive classroom culture that fosters a love of music and creativity.
- Create and foster a safe and supportive learning environment where all students feel heard, seen, and considered.
- Model and foster respectful and collaborative communication practices across the community.
- Support the Tessellations admissions process as needed.
- Support the Tessellations hiring process as needed.

Staff & Family Partnership

- Regularly communicate with families and colleagues to share classroom learnings and activities and to make student skill acquisition and standards visible.
- Provide clear and detailed communication about individual student strengths, areas of growth, as well as areas of challenge through formal and informal verbal and written communication (such as conferences, report cards).
- Communicate in a timely manner and with the appropriate protocols (SST, Alma Incidents, admin consultations, parent communications, etc) when you have cause for concern about a student.
- Response to family concern is handled with professional and cultural sensitivity.

Collaborative Professionalism

- Arrive on time to classes and supervision assignments.
- Ensure proper supervision of all students under your care.
- Utilize curiosity, questions, respect, and empathy in community conversations.
- Honor professional commitments.

- Seek out opportunities for professional development and/or make an effort to conduct action research and/or try new strategies and approaches.
- Welcome feedback from colleagues and supervisors and take action.
- Actively participate in committee and department meetings, always offering suggestions and helping to carry out action items.
- Seek support and utilize resources as needed to ensure execution of educational program and professional commitments.
- Be proactive in serving the community (such as picking up trash, supporting a colleague, volunteering to help cover an emergency absence etc.).
- Complete other duties and responsibilities as required to ensure student safety and educational instruction.

Required Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience
- Prior early elementary school (or related) teaching experience
- Orff training, or a strong willingness to pursue Orff training
- Passing a criminal background check upon hire
- Proficiency with technology (GSuite in particular)
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Social-emotional teaching experience
- Curriculum development experience
- Familiarity with and commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion practices
- Openness and flexibility in designing improved learning experiences
- Values collegial collaboration and individual improvement
- Enthusiastic life-long learner

Preferred Qualifications

- Degree in Music or Music Education
- Experience teaching grades TK, K, and/or 1st grade
- Experience teaching gifted learners
- Experience teaching twice-exceptional learners
- Master's degree

Compensation

Compensation range: \$40 - \$60/hour, based on experience.

Benefits for part-time employees include paid sick leave and 401(k).

This position is compensated for holidays and for hours worked. This position is not eligible for pay during school breaks or summer.

To Apply

Please submit a cover letter and resume to careers@tessellations.school. For more information about our school, visit <http://www.tessellations.school>.

Tessellations is an Equal Opportunity Employer — we do not discriminate against any employee or job applicant on the bases of race, color, gender, national origin, age, religion, creed, disability, sex, or reproductive health decision making.