



as far as the mind can see

2018-2019 Middle School Learning Specialist

About Francis Parker School:

Francis Parker School is a coeducational independent day school in San Diego, California with 1235 students in grades JK-12. Founded in 1912, the school's mission is "to create and inspire a diverse community of independent thinkers whose academic excellence, global perspective and strength of character prepare them to make a meaningful difference in the world".

Overlooking Mission Valley, two separate campuses serve students in Lower School – junior kindergarten through 5th grade; Middle School – 6th grade through 8th grade and Upper School – 9th grade through 12th grade. As a college preparatory school Parker offers a comprehensive program that includes twenty-five advanced placement courses as well as a rich palette of electives – all designed to meet the individual needs of our students.

Job Description:

Francis Parker School seeks an enthusiastic, dedicated and passionate Learning Specialist to serve our Middle School population.

The Middle School, which includes grades 6-8 and enrolls 300+ students, is a lively and dynamic place. True to the vision of the school's namesake, Colonel Francis W. Parker, the Middle School emphasizes the importance of learning through doing. A rigorous curriculum guided by a passionate and caring faculty nurtures in students a lifelong love of learning.

The role of the Learning Specialist is to support students with different learning styles by providing intervention and remediation; support teachers in their efforts to advance students with different learning needs within the classroom; work with parents, students, and outside professionals in order to better support special needs students. The teacher's broad area of responsibility is to ensure that each student may learn and flourish academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually in a nurturing and responsive classroom and school environment.

Each student, guided by the Learning Specialist is expected to achieve at a high academic and personal level, according to his/her potential. The Learning Specialist reports to both the Head of Middle School and the Dean of Academic Student Support.

Essential Duties/Responsibilities:

- Develops solid knowledge of the Curriculum Maps, Scope and Sequence and all other grade-level curriculum in each content area taught, including the essential information, concepts and skills so as to better support students and assist classroom teachers.
- Differentiates instruction as needed (in content, process, product, and environment).
- In cooperation with classroom teacher(s), creates an individualized learning plan

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(ILP) for each student requiring specialized instructional support.

- Implements each student's ILP in the Gooding Family Academic Resource Center, and in support of and in cooperation with the classroom teacher(s).
- Provides individual and small group instruction across academic content areas
- Assists teachers in classrooms to help adjust, modify, and enrich curricular approaches and improve pedagogy.
- Serve as a Middle School Advisor to a 6th, 7th or 8th grade advisory group
- Works in conjunction with Head of Middle School and Dean of Academic Student Support to recommend tutors, psycho-educational evaluators, etc.
- Consults with outside specialists attending to students' needs.
- Prepares and implements a strategic plan for on going intervention and remediation in our Middle School program.

- Seeks out new and innovative curricula, texts, and technological applications for implementation in our classrooms and in the Gooding Family Academic Resource Center.
- When necessary, meets with the appropriate teacher(s) and department heads to ensure the easy and comfortable assimilation of all new students.
- Remains current with accepted and appropriate instructional theory, practice and research. Including engaging in regular and strategic professional development to advance the role of the Learning Specialist (including local and national seminars and conferences).
- Provides skillful classroom management practices (routines and procedures) to ensure a safe, orderly, positive, enjoyable, and productive learning environment.
- Uses formative and summative assessment and documents student progress and achievement; assesses and analyzes student strengths and needs; designs and implements appropriate instruction to facilitate learning and growth.
- Establishes and maintains frequent communication with parents about their child's academic, social and emotional progress and needs. This includes Report Cards, phone calls, Learning Management Systems, email blasts, etc.
- Makes recommendations for home interventions.
- In consultation with the Head of Middle School and Dean of Academic Student Support, creates and implements a protocol for determining who will receive special needs support.
- Attends meetings for all students receiving Instructional Support.
- Gives input to teachers regarding student Report Cards as deemed appropriate and necessary.

- Attends and participates in faculty meetings, committee meetings, school functions, and professional development activities during and after school hours as needed, appropriate and assigned.
- Upholds the philosophy, principles, policies, and procedures of Francis Parker School.
- Represents Francis Parker School positively in the school community and the wider community.



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- Adheres to strict student confidentiality.
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience with record keeping and documentation of service provision.
- Performs other tasks as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Head of Middle School and Dean of Academic Student Support.

Qualifications:

- Ideal candidate will have significant experience within a thriving Learning Specialist Program and/or experience building a Learning Specialist program.
- Bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution
- Coursework and experience in special education, educational therapy or reading specialist
- Experience interpreting psychoeducational evaluations and translating results into accommodations and interventions that reflect empirically based best practices
- Knowledge of relevant technology
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Ability to implement formal and informal assessments
- Passion for teaching

Salary and Benefits:

Francis Parker School is committed to attracting and retaining the highest quality faculty and staff through a substantial compensation plan, including competitive salary, TIAA retirement benefits and full medical/dental coverage. Individual salary is negotiable depending on years of experience and educational background.

Non-Discrimination:

Francis Parker School values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty, and staff from different backgrounds. All employment decisions are made without regard to unlawful considerations of race, color, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and related medical conditions), gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, mental or physical disability, medical condition, genetic information, military or veteran status, or any other basis prohibited by federal, state, or local law.

Application Process:

A cover letter, resume, transcripts and application should be submitted electronically to:

parkerjobs@francisparker.org

<http://francisparker.org/page/about-us-employment>

Please indicate the position you are applying for in the subject line

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