The Soulard School, a St. Louis charter school, is seeking a Principal for the 2020-21 school year.

Our Story

Established in 2004, The Soulard School grew from an early childhood program, with the founding staff and families at that time working hand-in-hand to create a different type of schooling for their children. Through this partnership, an elementary program rooted in the practices and values of Reggio Emelia, Maria Montessori and Howard Gardner emerged, specifically the ideas that learning can be active, playful and joyous, that developing social-emotional health and well-being is valuable, and that empowering children to independently problem-solve for themselves and with their peers is worthwhile. It is this “different type of schooling” that is felt as visitors, students, staff, and parents explore our halls and observe our classes in action.

Beginning in 2019, our elementary (K-5th) program transitioned to a charter model, while our early childhood program remained independent. The charter structure allows us to offer a tuition-free education to elementary students from across St. Louis City, removing barriers for families to participate in our approach. We seek families looking for an alternative to the traditional classroom setting, a place where the classroom is welcoming and learning is dynamic. Our parents are also looking for not just a school, but a community among the children and adults, and a place where all students and families are valued partners regardless of background and ability. An active Parent Association and strong parent volunteer presence bring parents into the building during and after the school day for activities, and foster a sense of belonging that is desired by many families.

Located in the historic Soulard neighborhood, with a current enrollment of 155 that will eventually grow to 180 students, The Soulard School is looking for a school leader for the next phase of our growth. The principal will continue our core programming and mission, and add their knowledge and expertise to further school goals.

Principal Overview

The Principal works collaboratively with the Executive Director, Assistant Principal and staff of 30 to provide kindergarten through 5th grade education to a diverse group of students as well as supports the Soulard Education Center’s early childhood and out-of-school programming. The Principal supports and shapes all aspects of the school, with a special focus on working with teachers on curriculum planning and classroom management. Strong skills and background in these areas will be key in the hiring process.

The Principal shall have the responsibility for planning, advocating, supporting, implementing, and evaluating all educational activities. The Principal will create a positive, trustworthy, collaborative and respectful climate that has consistent expectations for all. The Principal will build relationships, communicate proactively, and promote continual growth while maintaining The Soulard School’s progressive and student-centered focus.
Responsibilities

The Principal will be responsible for the following:

Mission/Vision
- Promote and clearly articulate the shared mission and vision for learning at The Soulard School.
- Be a creative and innovative leader with a passion for innovative, hands-on learning.
- Demonstrate knowledge of current teaching methods and educational pedagogy, differentiation of instruction based upon student learning styles.
- Encourage staff to continue to grow professionally and to integrate new approaches or strategies for teaching.
- Positively engage families in establishing a shared sense of community for the school.
- Promote diversity of all kinds throughout the school.

Student & Family Relationships
- Coordinate student transition to middle school; liaison with alumni.
- Work cooperatively with teachers and administrators to address individual student behavioral and academic needs.
- Support effective communications between teachers and parents.
- Encourages parental involvement in students' education and ensures effective communication with students and parents.

Staff Supervision
- Hire, orient and supervise teachers and staff in school.
- Provide clear and consistent expectations for teachers and staff based on school policy as established in the staff handbook.
- Implement and supervise instructional programs with an emphasis on professional development for student achievement and individualized learning.
- Support teachers in all areas of their development through: consistent review of lesson plans, regular meetings and observations, and formal performance evaluations.
- Assist teachers in creating and maintaining a yearly professional development plan and supporting a continuation or advancement of their professional certifications.

Operations/Reporting/Data
- Working with Assistant Principal to document and report student behavior and academic data, as well as use that data to create (with teacher feedback) school goals in support of increased student progress in both areas.
- Oversee use of facility, scheduling classes and activities.
- Maintain student trimester report system and support teachers with implementation as needed.
- Coordinate programs and activities with community partners.

General Skills
- Effective verbal and written communication skills.
- Ability to prioritize, problem-solve and manage multiple aspects of school operations.
- Flexibility to attend events outside the school day including student activities, board meetings and workshops.

Perform other duties as necessary to support the mission and vision of The Soulard School.
Qualifications

Master’s degree or higher in the field of education, including elementary certification. Principal certification preferred.

Elementary classroom experience required, school leadership experience strongly preferred.

Affinity for, and experience with, a progressive, non-traditional, project-based approach to learning such as Montessori, Reggio Emilia, etc.

Please review our website prior to applying to gain familiarity with our structure and philosophy.

Application

Send cover letter, resume and 3 references to employment@soulardschool.org. Equal Opportunity Employer.

We plan to complete the hiring process by early spring, with the position to include some transition time in late spring and Summer 2020 and begin full-time July 1, 2020.