MIDDLE SCHOOL LANGUAGE ARTS AND DIGITAL STORYTELLING TEACHER

JOB SUMMARY
As a Language Arts Teacher, it is important to demonstrate an ability to develop and deliver an innovative approach to Language Arts instruction to middle-level learners. The Language Arts Teacher must possess a breadth of subject knowledge and technology skills designed to enhance instruction, student inquiry, and cultivate critical thinking skills. The Language Arts Teacher must be intimately familiar with a variety of platforms designed for publishing student work, which might include, but not limited to blogging, vlog sites and other social media platforms.

Within the Digital Storytelling class, students will engage in the writing process to compose relevant, compelling narratives and publish them using modern digital media platforms. Students will be challenged to go beyond the use of basic digital tools to tell a story by leveraging more sophisticated media, which may include computer simulations, game engines, and interactive wearable technology. Introduction and reinforcement of expert communication skills will be supported by a focus on the nature and function of storytelling. Essential to the success of this Mid-Pacific’s Digital Storytelling class is the capacity of the teacher to foster relationships with outside partners and digital platform based professionals in support of the instructional program. Additionally, critical to their skillset must be the ability to be instructional flexible by integrating outside collaborations that make storytelling relevant to the lives of today’s learners.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Understand and communicate effective Language Arts and technology instruction by making logical connections between the two.
- Must possess an understanding of the fundamentals of Language Arts as well as deliver effective instruction without the assistance of a textbook.
- Collect and analyze data from disparate resources to solve problems and apply new solutions.
- The ability to successfully integrate and manage the use of social media as a tool for publishing student work and gathering feedback.
- Must be able to fundamentally apply technology to the age-old experience of sharing personal narratives.
- Effectively guide students through the process of communicating through the use of multiple mediums — spoken, written, artistic and digital.
- Able to guide students through processes of self-assessment to effectively monitor their progress and communicate the quality of their learning to others, formally and informally.
- Cultivate working relationship between students and community to deepen their understanding of technology and its practical applications.
- Experience with guiding students in the development of a digital portfolio that communicates their learning of relevant Language Arts principles through triangulated sources.
● Makes him/herself available to work with parents and students as needed.
● Effectively assess and evaluate students’ academic growth and communicate the details of their learning journey to parents and colleagues.
● Remain current of curricular instructional development and implement changes appropriate to addressing the needs of today’s learner.
● Effectively work with school administration to meet the needs of students.
● Cultivate working relationship between students and community to deepen their understanding of Language Arts and technology and its practical applications.
● Pedagogy must be in alignment with Mid-Pacific’s Mission and Vision Statements as well as the Aspirational Document.

ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS
● The ability to teach students to manage their learning by identifying options, evaluating opportunities and organizing educational experiences that will enable them to work within a problem-based collaborative environment.
● Must possess the ability to combine narrative with digital content, including images, sound, and video, to tell a compelling story, typically with a strong emotional component.
● Must have a well established social media presence.
● Understand the importance of student based assessment practices designed to encourage student growth and improve instructional practices.
● A well developed network of professional colleagues beyond the current school environment—a well established Professional Learning Network (PLN).
● Must be creative, imaginative and be fluent in a number of software platforms; and apps.
● Motivate students and nurture their desire to learn in a safe, healthy and supportive environment which develops compassion and mutual respect.
● Able to work within a non-traditional curricular framework and develop relevant, meaningful instruction focused on the needs of today’s learner.
● Understand and leverage the use of the digital environment as an effective tool for supporting the needs of today’s learner.
● A self-directed learner comfortable with a constantly evolving instructional framework.
● Strong interpersonal skills with students, parents, colleagues, and community members.
● The ability to challenge students with open-ended questions for the purpose of guiding them through self-discovery.
● A proven record of making an effort to build a network of professional colleagues: locally, nationally, and internationally for the purpose of engaging in professional growth beyond the current school environment—a well established Professional Learning Network (PLN).
● Approach the profession with maturity, gravitas, humility, versatility—solutions-mindedness with a strong work ethic, and sense of humor.
● The desire to support students as they take part in various extracurricular school activities.
EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE

- A Bachelor’s degree in Language Arts or a related field from an accredited university or college.
- A minimum of three years of middle level teaching experience is strongly preferred.
- Must be comfortable and proficient with working within an online learning environment as well as delivering instruction through the use of a variety of digital tools.
- Must be intimately familiar with instructional methodologies that require students to apply their knowledge of Language Arts and technology to a problem based learning environment.
- Must be able to create learning opportunities that enable students to have the experience of achieving expertise by researching, understanding, and developing new knowledge about technology, their environment and drawing meaningful connections between the two.
- Must be intimately aware of multiple forms of assessment to evaluate student learning, and provide ongoing feedback to students to empower them to manage and accelerate their own learning.
- Must be comfortable with drawing from multiple resources in order to plan and deliver relevant Language Arts instruction without the dependance of a textbook.
- Must possess a systematic approach to managing a classroom environment that affords students the opportunity to work in a collaborative environment that often extends beyond the classroom.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

Our campus consists of multiple buildings on 44 hilly acres that requires frequent walking including uphill and stairs. The individual is required to talk and hear, often required to sit and use their hands and fingers, to handle or feel and to manipulate keys on a keyboard. The employee may be required to stand, walk, lift and carry approximately 10-15 pounds, reach with arms and hands, climb or balance, and to stoop, bend, kneel, crouch or crawl. Requires close vision.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Ability to read, write and interpret documents such as budgets, reports, operating and maintenance instructions, procedure manuals and policies. A qualified person will possess the ability to write routine reports, memos, letters and correspondence. Knowledge of and ability to apply accepted English usage, grammar, spelling and punctuation.

MENTAL DEMANDS

On a daily basis must frequently problem solve, make decisions, interpret data, organize, plan, and clearly communicate.
**EQUIPMENT USE**
Telephone, computer, iPad, copier, printers and other hardware – frequently

**WORKING CONDITIONS**
Indoor – frequently; Outdoor, Loud Noise, Cold and Hot Temperatures – occasionally

**WORKING ENVIRONMENT**
Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.