Special Education Teacher
Minnesota Wildflower Montessori School

Minnesota Wildflower Montessori Schools (MWMS) seeks a part-time or full-time special education teacher to provide support to two school sites in identifying, assessing, and implementing plans for instruction in partnership with teacher leaders. The Special Education Teacher will provide instructional programming within the assigned caseload with specific responsibility for assisting in the supervision, care and instruction of special needs students in the regular classroom and/or in a self-contained space. Qualified candidates will have experience in classrooms that are Montessori, highly personalized and/or self-guided. A qualified candidate must have a valid Minnesota Special Education Teaching License in Early Childhood Special Education.

Essential Responsibilities

- Planning and developing individualized education programs (IEP’s) that address individualized learning goals, objectives, learning strategies and behavior management plans for students with special needs.
- Managing all required due process paperwork required and/or mandated by state and federal laws.
- Monitoring and evaluating student progress as described in student IEP’s including,
  - Scheduling of all special education evaluations
  - Reviewing referrals and assessments needs
  - Evaluating plans prior to written notice
  - Completing written evaluation reports
- Collaborating and supporting teacher leader adaptations to classroom activities, and/or materials for the purpose of supporting and reinforcing Wildflower Montessori’s philosophy of whole child education and guidance.
- Guiding instruction in all areas as defined by the IEP, including as appropriate, additional instructional support and inclusion and co-teaching practices.
- Preparing lesson plans for specific direct instruction that aligns with student IEP goals and state standards.

Attitudes, Knowledge, and Skills

Those who tend to approach challenges with a flexible, open, solution-oriented mindset and that see opportunity in obstacles will find this work rewarding. Strong candidates will be energized by unleashing creative and resourceful solutions to create new ways to support Teacher Leaders and students. They will approach this work with generosity of spirit, seek advice openly, and will be comfortable working in a non-hierarchical organization. Individuals that will find joy in this work are eager to stretch beyond their current experience, to develop new skills and expertise and to more deeply explore their purpose and potential.
We are driven by a passion for Montessori and equity, are eager to facilitate access to Montessori with families of limited economic means and seek to build racially diverse learning communities.

Who We Are

MWMS is the first charter school affiliated with The Wildflower Foundation and is planning to open two charter school sites in Fall 2018, with approval to open up to 13 sites under its charter agreement with Audubon Center of the North Woods through 2023. The Wildflower Foundation is a small nonprofit organization working to nurture the organic growth of Wildflower Schools, a network of teacher-led, child-centered authentic Montessori learning environments that support families from diverse backgrounds as they follow life’s unfolding journey. Wildflower Schools are very small - typically 2-3 Teacher Leaders and 30 students spanning a 3-year age range. The model combines time-tested, research-supported Montessori methods in one-room, neighborhood-nested schools with intentional student diversity, teacher empowerment, and data-driven instruction. Wildflower aspires to serve children and families with high quality, nurturing learning environments for their children.

How We Work

The Wildflower network is decentralized and rooted deeply in our values of Connectedness and Growth; our norms of Awareness, Kindness, and Autonomy with Support; and the 9 Principles that guide our schools’ design.

MWMS operates in a unique governance structure called Holacracy--a non-hierarchical model of governance whereby all roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and have an established purpose and clear accountabilities. The board focuses on governance policy development and metrics analysis to inform decision-making. Because of our decentralized, non-hierarchical organizational model MWMS emphasizes the development of a strong leadership team at each school site. To the extent applicable by law, the Teacher Leader teams at each site will be responsible for all decisions that affect their children and families; this autonomy is critical to the Wildflower model and is reinforced in the Nine Principles that unite all Wildflower Schools.

Roles evolve regularly as our work and surrounding circumstances change, and we rely on radical transparency, requesting and sharing advice with one another, a commitment to participation in conflict resolution practices, and clearly articulated roles and responsibilities to ensure that each individual is able to lead within their role.

We strive to ensure that our charter represents the communities we serve and are proactively seeking people of color and individuals from diverse backgrounds who share the organization’s passion for equity in Minnesota education. To learn more about the ideas that drive us, check out The Wildflower Collection.

Learn More

Send a summary of your experience and description of your interests to Katie Piehl: katie.piehl@wildflowerschools.org, 847.521.8234.