Instrumental Music Teacher

VOICE Charter School (www.voicecharterschool.org) is an elementary and middle school located in Long Island City, Queens that serves students in grades K-8. We are located just minutes from Manhattan (two stops from the last subway stop in Manhattan on the F train) and Long Island City’s growing waterfront district, thriving arts community, and rapid residential growth. We combine rigorous academics with daily instruction in choral singing, thereby encouraging creative and critical thinking while improving academic performance. We are looking to identify extraordinary educators and administrators committed to urban education and high academic achievement who wish to join a dynamic learning community.

Our mission is to create a safe and healthy learning environment that will nurture, motivate and challenge all of our children to achieve the highest level of academic excellence and to develop into mindful, responsible, contributing participants in their education, their community and the diverse society in which we live.

What makes VOICE different?

At VOICE, it's not just about the music. It's about the people. It’s about what you can be. It’s about using your passion. It’s about relationships. It’s about having the opportunity to choose. It’s about caring for each individual child. Our teachers, administrators, students and parents come together to support our children’s education. We operate as part of a professional learning community that promotes collegiality, shared work, and unending reflection and growth. At VOICE, you will be pushed to become more.

We believe in efficacy. At the core of our academic culture is the idea that all students are capable of doing well in any discipline. At VOICE, all students will learn.

We support and develop the effectiveness of our teachers. We believe that teachers need time to collaborate to build their practice, so we provide them with over two hours of planning time a day, as well as additional days for curriculum development and training during the school year.

We promote participation in music and the arts. As music and art both help to develop problem solving and critical thinking skills and open children's imaginations, all VOICE students participate in daily activities in the arts, including rigorous choral training. We design our arts-integrated curriculum to bring joy to the lives of our children in order to provide them with the skills necessary to forge their own path.

All Faculty and Staff at VOICE:
- Love and nurture all of our students as they become deeply caring and responsible individuals
- Take personal responsibility for the performance and growth of each individual student as we understand that the progress of all students is directly under our control
- Work collaboratively
- Hold themselves to the highest standards
- Push and support themselves, their students, and their colleagues
- Proactively seek and incorporate feedback
- Help each individual child gain the opportunity to choose what his or her future will be
Position Responsibilities:

**Curriculum and Planning**
- Learn content and skills as detailed in curriculum support materials (e.g. teacher guides), VOICE framework for teaching, as well as Common Core or other related standards
- Collaborate with colleagues in developing purposeful, rigorous, and engaging daily and long-term plans aligned to standards, and in regularly revising these materials
- Submit necessary curriculum documents (e.g. scope and sequence, curriculum maps, lesson plans, reteach plans, intellectual preparation documents) as requested
- Create, administer, and analyze meaningful and frequent assessments from which reteaches are planned
- Maintain the necessary records of student progress toward academic goals; meet deadlines for submitting data to other departments

**In the Classroom**
- Maintain a productive, safe, and disciplined learning environment in which classroom values, teaching points, process charts, and student work are clearly displayed
- Maximize instruction time by keeping the flow of classroom activities moving smoothly and efficiently throughout the day
- Uphold all school policies within the classroom
- Infuse VOICE values, rigor, and joy into lessons
- Integrate feedback and goal-setting into lesson delivery
- Provide the differentiation and accommodations needed for the growth and success of all students; go above and beyond to ensure that all students are meeting appropriate standards
- Model strong written and verbal skills
- Invest time in knowing students and demonstrate an active interest in their well-being; use kind, firm body language to convey authority and care
- Review and comply with guidelines of students’ IEPs, follow IDEA reporting requirements, and provide information about student performance and services received

**Communication and Collaboration**
- Fully embrace VOICE’s mission and values and promote them to students, parents, and colleagues
- Collaborate as part of an interdisciplinary team coordinating all instructional activities with teachers, assistants, and instructional leaders
- Proactively seek assistance or advice when faced with challenging teaching situations;
- Maintain positive relationships with and support the learning of all staff members
- Appropriate give and receive feedback to/from students, parents, faculty, staff, and administration
- Keep families well-informed of student performance and progress
- Provide feedback and guidance to classroom assistants

**Professionalism and Work Day Expectations**
- Fully participate in all school and grade-level meetings, designated school functions outside of school hours, and opportunities for individual and school-wide professional development
- Meet expectations including punctuality and professionalism in conversation and in writing; consistently meet deadlines and communicate frequently and appropriately on progress on projects and goals.
- Reflect on professional practice through self-analysis and engagement in informal and formal feedback processes
Position Qualifications:

Skills and Characteristics
- Deep belief in VOICE’s mission, vision, and values
- Unwavering commitment to the high academic achievement of all students
- Flexibility, exemplary written and verbal communication, and outstanding critical thinking skills
- Willingness to give and receive feedback aimed at facilitating the growth of both students and faculty
- Unwavering humility, perseverance, and kindness

Educational Background and Work Experience
- Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university
- New York State teaching certification
- Achievement of “Highly Qualified” status for New York State
- Experience with and interest in working with high needs students
- Mastery of primary instrument
- Able to sing, demonstrating proper voice production and intonation
- Experience conducting an ensemble
- Beginning piano skills or better
- Experience co-teaching or working in a close collaborative environment
- Experience with curriculum development, preferred
- Accompaniment skills (piano, guitar), preferred
- Experience with grant writing and starting an instrumental program, preferred

Compensation and Benefits: Compensation is competitive and based on experience. VOICE’s starting salary for teachers is above the district average, and we offer a comprehensive benefits package. VOICE is also a participant in the New York State Teachers Retirement System.

How to Apply: Please submit an electronic application (including a VOICE-specific cover letter and resume) here.

VOICE Charter School is an Equal Opportunity Employer. In its employment decisions, VOICE does not discriminate on the basis of an applicant or employee’s race, color, religion, sex, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, national origin, disability, veteran status, unemployment status, or any other status protected by law.