**FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2015-16**

Reports to: Headmaster / Special Education

Job Description: Special Education – Teacher of Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The Boston Arts Academy is looking for a high Teacher of Deaf and Hard of Hearing school. The Boston Arts Academy, a public high school for the visual and performing arts, is starting its 18th year in September 2015 with 440 students in Grades 9-12. It is a joint project of the Professional Arts Consortium, Inc., (comprised of the Berklee College of Music, Boston Architectural Center, the Boston Conservatory, Emerson College Massachusetts College of Arts, and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts) and the Boston Public Schools. The Boston Arts Academy is charged with being a laboratory and a beacon for artistic and academic innovation. The Boston Arts Academy prepares a diverse community of aspiring artist-scholars to be successful in their college or professional careers and to be engaged members of a democratic society.

This innovative school features a college preparatory curriculum supporting integrated and interdisciplinary teaching and learning among arts and academic disciplines. Students explore the arts in both traditional and new media forms. The Academy’s program is enriched by the involvement of the six members of the Professional Arts Consortium. Both the program and the student body at the Academy reflect the culture, ethnic and linguistic diversity of Boston.

The Academy is home to an innovative STEAM (Science Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) lab space and a joint Science and Math department STEAM team that explores curriculum that merges these disciplines and types of thinking in order to be successful in the 21st century creative economy.

The Academy is a Pilot School and a member of the Boston Pilot Schools Network, a group of Boston Public Schools that, by union contract, have been granted increased autonomy and flexibility to be laboratories of educational innovation. This includes the right to extend the school day and year for both faculty and students.

Teachers at the Academy undertake a number of special responsibilities. The Academy offers academic classes as well as classes in the visual and performing arts. Often classes integrate artistic and academic subjects. Faculty members work together to develop curriculum in all areas. The regular work schedule is approximately 35 hours per week with an additional 145 hours per year required for duties noted below. All academic classes begin at 8:00am.

The school year for students will be similar to the Boston Public Schools, but the actual school calendar may differ in terms of professional days for teachers and other aspects. All students will be members of an Advisory Group and all full-time teachers will serve as Advisors. (Advisory is a small group of students who come together periodically to
provide academic, social and emotional support to all students.) All full-time teaching staff also teach or co-teach a grade-level reading writing course to students.

Students are assessed through a variety of measures: Traditional tests, performances, exhibitions, and portfolios. More comprehensive material about the approach to teaching and learning is available upon request, as well as on the website, and in the handbook found on the website.

Responsibilities:

1. Teach a writing skills class for Deaf students (Writers Workshop), modifying the BAA writing curriculum.
2. Run resource classroom for deaf students (as an ESL class).
3. Teach one to two beginning classes in American Sign Language.
4. Implement curriculum requirements from deaf students' academic and art classes and adapt them as needed to meet the needs of individual deaf students.
5. Implement programming under an inclusionary model for deaf students.
6. Act as advocate and teacher for mainstreamed deaf students at the high school level.
7. Write IEPs and coordinate and run IEP meetings for deaf students.
8. Teach classes in long blocks in one or more subject areas (i.e., humanities) in the context of an integrated, arts-infused curriculum.
9. Work with staff as a resource person and adviser both within a teacher's classroom and individually.
11. Provide advice, support and evaluation for assigned students (“mentor”).
12. Participate in professional development activities.
13. Communicate regularly with parents/caregivers about student progress.
14. Organize and attend evening meetings with families of students in Advisory Group (and other students as appropriate) at least twice a year, and be generally accessible to families.
15. Take part in curriculum workshops, tentatively scheduled for the last week of August.
16. Work closely with parents of deaf students to advocate for their children and to develop IEPs.
17. Participate in one annual weekend retreat.
18. Accept flexible assignments, such as team and interdisciplinary teaching, working with different age groups and ability levels, etc.
19. Work with institutions of higher education and community collaborators.
20. Work an extended day of eight hours with occasional additional time as required for student performance and presentation activities.
21. Work for two days after end of school year in June reviewing and evaluating year and completing activities.
Terms: BTU, Group I

Qualifications:

Required:

Bachelor’s degree (transcript required)

Master's Degree in Education of the Deaf

Special Education Certification

Massachusetts teacher certification Teacher of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (please call Mass. DOE regarding alternative routes to certification at 617-388-3300).

American Sign Language Certified ASLTA or SCPI, rating of advanced or above.

An excellent command of written English.

Commitment to the arts as an important element in a complete education.

Commitment to cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity as a significant element in a complete education.

Experience and/or willingness to be trained in integrated or theme-based curriculum and performance – or portfolio – based assessment.

Preferred:

Three years teaching experience, preferably in an urban, high school setting, or urban school for the deaf

Three to five years experience teaching American Sign Language as a second language.

An understanding of cross-cultural issues among and the ability to interact effectively within the deaf and hearing communities.

Ability and/or certification to teach in multiple subject areas.

Reading or bilingual certification.

Fluency in a language in addition to English and ASL.
Advocate and teacher for mainstreamed deaf students at high school level.

Experience as an artist.

Interest or experience in more than one discipline.

Experience working with local cultural institutions.

Experience with new technology relating to arts and education.

Experience working in a heterogeneous classroom.

Experience with portfolio assessment.

Qualifications:

Required:

1. Experience teaching high school.
2. Possession of (or eligibility to receive) a Massachusetts preliminary license in Humanities. For more information on teacher licensure, call the Massachusetts Department of Education at 781-338-6600.
3. Commitment to receive certification in special education.
4. Commitment to the arts as an important element in a complete education.
5. Commitment to cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity as an element in a complete education.
6. Experience and/or willingness to be trained in integrated or theme-based curriculum and performance, or portfolio-based assessment.
7. Ability to take on responsibilities and prioritize quickly.
8. Flexible working hours.
9. Hold a Bachelors Degree (copy of transcript required).
10. Ability to work within a complex bureaucracy.
11. Excellent communication skills.
12. Meets/will meet all state and federal guidelines in order to be fully licensed and “Highly Qualified” according to NCLB.
13. Current authorization to work in the United States - Candidates must have such authorization by their first day of employment.

Preferred:

1. Three years teaching experience, preferably in an urban high school setting.
2. Masters Degree or equivalent thereof.
3. Ability and/or certification to teach in multiple subject areas.
4. Special education, reading or bilingual certification.
5. Fluency in languages in addition to English.
6. Experience as an artist.
7. Interest or experience in more than one discipline.
8. Experience working with local cultural institutions.
9. Experience with new technology relating to arts and education.
10. Experience working in a heterogeneous classroom.
11. Experience with portfolio assessment.

Terms: BTU, Group I

To Apply: Send a resume & cover letter of recommendation to:
Bob Kollar, Business Manager, Boston Arts Academy, 174 Ipswich Street, Boston, MA 02115. Any questions contact Bob Kollar by email at bkollar@bostonartsacademy.org. All applicants must apply online at the Boston Public Schools website www.bostonpublicschools.org