

August 2022

RENZULLI CENTER NEWS

Special Category

Every Kid Needs a Champion

Joe ran across this TED Talk and thought it delivers a very powerful message.

Rita Pierson, a teacher for 40 years, once heard a colleague say, "They don't pay me to like the kids." Her response: "Kids don't learn from people they don't like." A rousing call to educators to believe in their students and actually connect with them on a real, human, personal level.

Watch Rita Pierson's TED Talks Education:

https://www.ted.com/talks/rita_pierson_every_kid_needs_a_champion

Job Opportunities

Elementary Gateway Specialist - Barnstable United Elementary School, Hyannis, MA

JOB GOAL: To implement Gateway curriculum by working with students on a small-group or individual basis in an enrichment room setting who have been identified to work on accelerated or curriculum-based enrichment.

Read details of the job opening:

[Barnstable Public Schools Job Opening](#)

Elementary Gateway Teacher - South Washington County Schools, MN

JOB ID: 13558

- o Position Type: Elementary Teaching
- o Date Posted: 6/20/2022
- o Location: Valley Crossing Elementary School
- o Date Available: Fall 2022
- o Closing Date: 06/24/22 or until filled

POSITION SUMMARY:

Develop the full acquisition of academic and social/emotional knowledge, skills, and concepts among gifted learners while serving as an elementary classroom teacher.

PRIMARY JOB FUNCTIONS:

1. Recognize the learning differences, developmental milestones, and cognitive and affective characteristics of gifted learners, including those from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and identify their related academic and social/emotional needs.
2. Prepare objectives and outlines for courses of study that align with the Minnesota Academic Standards and follow curriculum guidelines or requirements of the school and/or district.
3. Design units of study and lessons that incorporate advanced, conceptually challenging, in-depth, distinctive, and complex content for gifted learners while fostering critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity.
4. Establish and enforce expectations for behavior and classroom procedures to ensure respectful interactions among individuals and productive use of time.
5. Select, adapt, and use a repertoire of evidence-based instructional strategies to advance the learning of gifted students.
6. Provide a classroom environment that fosters curiosity, self-direction, and love of learning.
7. Provide learning experiences that center around issues, themes, and central ideas.
8. Provide gifted learners opportunities for self-exploration, development and pursuit of interests, and development of identities supportive of achievement.
9. Administer standardized ability and achievement tests and interpret results to determine student strengths and areas of need.
10. Confer and collaborate with students, parents or guardians, and school/district personnel to develop and implement plans to address academic, behavioral, or social/emotional challenges that students face.
11. Maintain accurate and complete student records as required by district practices and/or policies and administrative regulations. Use records to determine progress and set goals.
12. Take an active role in Professional Learning Communities, educational conferences, professional meetings, and teacher training opportunities in order to enhance professional practice.
13. Work to support the mission and belief statements of the Gateway program by participating in activities including, but not limited to, program development and evaluation, teacher and family education, student selection and placement, and public relations.
14. Other duties as assigned.

JOB SPECIFICATIONS (EDUCATION, LICENSE, EXPERIENCE, KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES):

Required:

15. Minnesota teaching license in Elementary Education.
16. Demonstrated knowledge of the needs of gifted learners.
17. Experience with differentiated instruction as related to gifted learners.
18. Demonstrated collaboration and relationship-building skills.
19. Strong oral and written communication skills.
20. Ability to perform routine computer functions and integrate the use of technology in classroom instruction.
21. Ability to communicate with stakeholders in a positive and responsive way that is consistently welcoming and enhances effective work relationships.
22. Prompt, regular, and reliable attendance.
23. Ability to perform routine computer functions, including the use of email and Microsoft Word.
24. Communicates with students, parents, co-workers, supervisors, and the community in a positive and responsive way that is consistently welcoming and enhances effective work relationships.
25. Demonstrates an appreciation of diversity in all interactions and job functions.

Desired:

26. Master's degree, certificate courses, or advanced training in gifted education.
27. Responsive Classroom trained or ability to become trained within 12 months.
28. Licensed in 5-8 or 5-12 Mathematics.
29. Experience with or training related to students who are twice-exceptional.

Equal Opportunity Employer

Posted at: <https://www.sowashco.org/careers>

For more information, contact: SoWashCo Schools at 651-425-6291



Alumni News

Academic Milestone– Dr. Lisa DaVia Rubenstein

Congratulations to Dr. Lisa DaVia Rubenstein who achieved the rank of full professor in the Department of Educational Psychology at Ball State University, Muncie, IN. Lisa's UConn family is so proud of all her accomplishments. Lisa completed her PhD from the University of Connecticut in 2011.

For more information, contact: E. Jean Gubbins at ejean.gubbins@uconn.edu

Enrichment Clusters in Middle School

Joe is passing along via [the attached](#) an excellent example of the process that a group of middle students used in an Enrichment Cluster to produce a remarkable video and study about the Holocaust. Their film can be viewed by clicking on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2sTTI-aplI>

