



NORTHWEST  
ACADEMY

**Black & White Photography Teacher  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Visual Arts Teacher**

Northwest Academy is seeking Black & White Photography teacher and a 6<sup>th</sup> grade Visual Arts teacher for the 2016-17 school year.

Northwest Academy is a progressive, independent middle school and high school located in downtown Portland. We emphasize proficiency-based curriculum and assessment, high expectations, creativity, and student-centered classrooms. We value an inclusive, caring culture that supports and challenges students, that is sensitive to their developmental needs, and that ultimately guides students to celebrate their emerging independence and individual spirit. Teachers have significant independence when it comes to motivating students to meet proficiencies and to get excited about their subjects.

The Northwest Academy Arts Program is committed to providing a safe yet challenging creative environment in which students cultivate various methods of personal expression through experience in diverse artistic genres, disciplines, and mediums. Through expert instruction and individualized attention, arts students develop their abilities to realize their creative visions and to synthesize connections among their academic and artistic pursuits. The Arts Program values Process and Maturation, Creative Self-Expression, Collaboration, Creative Problem Solving, Cultural Literacy, Cognitive and Emotional Development through the Arts, and Self-Discipline.

Position Title: Black & White Photography Teacher/Visual Arts Teacher  
Department: Visual Arts  
Reports To: High School Director and Middle School Director  
FTE: .60 FTE Photography; .60 Visual Arts

**POSITION SUMMARY:**

The Black and White Photography Teacher is responsible for teaching high school black & white photography classes. Classes feature students at all levels, from beginning to more advanced. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade Visual Arts teacher is responsible for introducing middle school students to craftsmanship and the creative process through instruction and experiences in drawing, painting, design, printmaking, and sculpture. This teacher is a member of the Visual Arts Department and is expected to participate in the development and activities of the Visual Arts program.

**ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Developing and delivering black and white photography and 6<sup>th</sup> grade visual arts curriculum, leading students toward mastery of essential skills and techniques;

- Instructing students on the effective, responsible, and safe use of visual art studio spaces and darkroom spaces, including tank processing of black and white film and the use of necessary chemicals and other materials and equipment;
- Maintain safe and clean darkroom and visual art studio spaces;
- Effective and efficient organization and operation of the darkroom, including ordering supplies, coordinating equipment repair, mixing chemicals, and managing equipment donations;
- Promoting student work in external venues and programs/contests and in establishing opportunities for students with local arts venues, foundations, programs, and partners; and
- Creating student exhibit space and galleries during the school year, including at school events.

#### GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Teach classes as assigned, providing effective and professional classroom instruction, assessment, and management;
- Collaborate with colleagues on curriculum development and on enhancing instructional practices and strategies;
- Design and implement curriculum and instruction consistent with the mission, values, and standards established with the department's program;
- Establish effective communications with students and parents;
- Actively participate in the school community and culture;
- Develop relationships with community partners to the benefit of students and classes;
- Help to maintain school policies, regulations, and expectations;
- Develop and maintain professional, collaborative, and collegial relationships;
- Support the work of the Head of School and administrative/leadership team;
- Exhibit a growth mindset about teaching practices and work toward professional goals and development;
- Participate in required non-classroom activities, including Back to School Night(s), parent/student conferences, retreats, faculty and department meetings, field trips, special activity and performance days,
- Provide effective supervision of students to promote a safe and healthy environment and school experience;
- Timely and professional completion of required reports and forms; and
- Represent the school at community or public events.

#### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Earned Bachelor's Degree, or higher, from a regionally accredited institution of higher education—equivalent educational or professional experiences in the arts also will be considered where applicable;
- Expertise and teaching experience in the subject area(s) to be taught;
- Black and white photo darkroom printing experience, as well as experience managing, maintaining, and stocking a darkroom containing multiple enlargers and processing stations;
- Knowledge of photo chemistry and darkroom photo equipment;

- Experience with observational drawing, painting, design, printmaking, and sculpture; is familiar with a broad range of materials and techniques;
- Experience designing developmentally appropriate artistic activities that motivate middle school learners;
- Demonstrated passion for and success working with young adolescent and adolescent students;
- Excellent verbal, written, and digital communication skills; ability to effectively communicate and work as a team with administrators, faculty, staff, parents, and students;
- Proficiency in a Mac environment, as well as with Google Drive, Google Docs and Apps, word processing, database, electronic grading software, and other classroom and teaching technologies, including audio/visual equipment;
- The ability to create an effective learning environment and interact effectively with people from different cultures and experiences;
- An awareness about difference and how it can expand teaching practices and student success; and
- An ability to learn from and build on varying cultural and community norms of students and their families.

#### PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- 3+ years of successful teaching experience in middle school and/or high school classrooms or studios;
- Demonstrated success at developing curriculum and educational opportunities for students within and outside of the classroom environment;

#### SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES:

None.

#### WORKING CONDITIONS:

This is a 10-month teaching position that follows an academic school year calendar. Teachers are expected to be on-campus or actively involved in the school community during their scheduled classes and for an established percentage of their non-classroom hours. There are some required commitments outside of regular school hours as needed, including evening and weekend commitments, as well as accompanying students on various experiential activities throughout the year.

Northwest Academy staff recognize that participating in a professional community and contributing to the school's wellbeing is an important element of their relationship to our school. As a result, staff members are expected to take active roles in the school's professional and student culture in a variety of ways in addition to their essential responsibilities.

#### PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

Physical requirements are consistent with light physical duties required of teachers generally. The school is spread out across five buildings covering multiple blocks in downtown Portland, so teachers may have to move between buildings during five-minute passing periods or to attend meetings around campus. The school does not provide parking for all staff members, so metered street or lot parking might be required. The Photography Teacher must be able to handle darkroom chemicals and related materials and equipment in a safe and healthy manner.

Interested candidates can should submit their resume and a cover letter to [careers@nwacademy.org](mailto:careers@nwacademy.org).

*Northwest Academy is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to welcoming and celebrating a diverse student and faculty population. We believe every employee has the right to work in an environment free from all forms of unlawful discrimination. It is the policy of the school that employment decisions for all applicants and employees will be made without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, genetic information, marital status, veteran status, disability or other characteristics protected under local, state or federal law. No employee will be retaliated against for raising concerns under this policy. We seek each employee's contribution and assistance in helping us maintain equal employment opportunity.*