



Opening for the 2024-2025 School Year

Middle School Science (Grades 6-8)

Part-time Position (2-3 days per week, <18 hours per week)

Position Summary

We are not your typical school. Thank you for taking a moment to learn more about the possibility of teaching Middle Science and inspiring students who are curious, smart, compassionate, kind, and hardworking over a multi-year program in a supportive, positive, and collaborative school.

Signature learning programs for our students distinguish us. They include 50+ hours of community service during school hours, exploring religions and faiths first hand (visiting 5-6 each year), 30+ field trips per year ("Learning Outside the Classroom" almost every Wednesday to challenge, inspire, and make classroom lessons real), job shadow program, guest speakers program (30+ per year), emphasis civility, manners, and much more. These real world experiences and interactions with experts provide robust learning moments for our students in Science topics and more!

Founded in 2007, University School of the Lowcountry (USL) is a co-ed independent school serving grades 3-12 that engages students in a variety of empirically proven and forward-thinking educational and service opportunities both in and outside of the classroom and challenges students in age-appropriate ways to excel academically while growing in emotional intelligence in a culture that teaches and practices the importance of citizenship.

USL is located in Mount Pleasant and serves the metro Charleston, South Carolina area. USL is a growing school with 80+ students (with a defined cap of 100).

We are seeking an experienced, enthusiastic, and personable Middle School Science Teacher for a part-time position, beginning in August 2024. As noted above, Science is also supported by our Learning Outside the Classroom program of 30+ field trips (including integration into divisional overnight trips) and Guest Speaker program (30+ experts per year).

Overview of Middle School Science

Science is a hybrid model class in our Middle School. There are typically 36-42 students in the Middle School, and they take this class 2x week (in the afternoon after lunch & recess). The classes are a blend of grades 6-8 students, and there are two sections of the class (averaging 16-22 students per section).

The MS Science Teacher is also part of the Learning Outside the Classroom team of teachers. This means they will join the weekly field trip (90% are on Wednesdays) and venture beyond our campus to help our students learn and grow from direct experience and interaction with experts.

The ideal candidate will have demonstrated use of a variety of teaching methods and be comfortable with biology, chemistry, anatomy and physics. Our Middle School Science program is based around three themes (water, air, earth), and one is explored each year (thus a 3-year cycle) with the various disciplines interwoven into the subject study. Field experiences are devoted to the hands-on learning of the topics, and this includes many dedicated Learning Outside the Classroom days for Science. There are pre-existing curriculum maps for each year of the Science cycle. A veteran teacher of MS Science, now our Upper School Science teacher, stands ready to support the MS Science teacher.

USL Middle School students also take Math, English, Humanities (blend of History, English, and Art), High School Spanish, High School Latin, and Leadership and Life Skills. All USL students have PE/Exercise each morning. These courses are taught by other instructors.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Mission and Leadership

- Be a visible presence in all areas of the school and build/maintain relationships among all students and faculty, especially in terms of supporting efforts related to skills connected to Science.
- Support the mission, vision, and core values of the school.
- Promote a school climate that is safe, supports learning, and emphasizes character development.
- Communicate proactively with students, parents, faculty, and staff.

Curriculum and Teaching and Learning

- Be knowledgeable and able to articulate advances and trends in English teaching-learning and education.
- Review and evaluate the academic programs in English, including horizontal and vertical curricular flow.

Students – Curriculum & Classroom Teaching and Learning

- Be knowledgeable of advances and developments in Science (the school has memberships in the NSTA and Science journals and magazines for faculty and students)
- Collaborate with other USL Science teachers to regularly review and evaluate the academic programs in Science, including horizontal and vertical curricular flow.
- Use appropriate and varied teaching techniques
- Maintain academic and attendance records for each student
- Prepare and conduct regular assessments
- Integrate content and experiences from weekly field trips into the curriculum and lesson plans.
- Assign lessons, correct work in a timely manner, and evaluate oral presentations
- Prepare course objectives and follow the school's overarching curriculum
- Develop and share a year-long curriculum map. USL has pre-existing maps and the teacher will have the support of a prior teacher of Middle School Science.
- Demonstrate a passion for working with students in grades 6-8 and an understanding of their unique development at each of these levels.
- Display enthusiasm for teaching and professional growth.
- Provide Science support where needed.
- Get to know students well.
- Follow child safety and reporting requirements of the State and the School in the case of suspected child abuse or neglect.

Faculty – Other Members of the University School Staff

- Ensure that teachers across disciplines are familiar with lessons taught and skills expected so there is mutual reinforcement and common expectations.
- Foster a professional, respectful, and appreciative environment that values the contributions of all team members.
- Serve as a member of the Science department and Middle School division; attend meetings and support the work of the department and the MS division.
- Build trusting, positive, and collaborative relationships with other faculty and staff.

Common Qualification Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in Science or similar area of study (this includes work/education experience in fields with science components. The key is demonstrated proficiency in the topics and skills listed required classes); master's degree preferred.
- Teaching experience, and this can come in a wide variety of forms and fields, especially with students in grades 6-8. This can include working with high school and college students and can include public and/or private schools.

Sample Skill Requirements

- Exceptional written and oral communication skills
- Strategic thinker and empathetic problem solver
- An approachable, empathetic, and down-to-earth disposition, with a healthy balance of humility and confidence
- Possess qualities of enthusiasm, courtesy, flexibility, personal presentation, integrity, gratitude, kindness, self-control, perseverance, and punctuality
- Proven ability to work and communicate well with adolescents and their parents
- Collaborative and relational style built on active solicitation of input and excellent listening skills
- Knowledge of and commitment to a community where all belong
- Comfortable using and learning new or best-practice technology
- Model a growth mindset and comfort with change
- Positive outlook on life with a good sense of humor
- A deep appreciation and passion for education

About University School of the Lowcountry

Mission

University School of the Lowcountry is an independent school serving grades 3-12 that engages students in a variety of empirically proven and forward-thinking educational and service opportunities both in and outside of the classroom and challenges students in age-appropriate ways to excel academically while growing in emotional intelligence in a culture that teaches and practices the importance of citizenship.

Vision

Our vision is to develop outstanding students who are well-prepared to be scholars, leaders, and global citizens of the future.

Core Values

We develop discerning smart students by learning first-hand from experts about a range of topics outside the classroom.

We foster leadership by providing opportunities to lead.

We create a caring and inclusive environment by embracing diverse perspectives and individuals.

We nurture compassionate and responsible students by serving our neighbors and community organizations.

We encourage wellness through multi-faceted principles that promote student development and resiliency.

Faculty

University School attracts the best teachers, hiring those who succeed because of their drive, optimism, insight, curiosity, and ability. Their enthusiasm is contagious. Actively fostering a culture of learning is what makes a great school. Our exceptional teachers and their high expectations foster an environment where our students succeed. Our dedicated faculty have the highest expectations for each other and each student in all areas of their development: intellectually, physically, emotionally, ethically, and socially.

University School features a supportive and warm environment for teachers. Faculty are treated like professionals and are respected and shown proper gratitude by students and families. Teachers have wide latitude to teach and select curriculum materials to engage their students, and guidance comes from the Head of School (who is also a teacher), fellow department members and teachers, and best practices from national associations for the various disciplines. The Faculty hold themselves to high standards for inspiring and challenging their students within an environment of mutual care and concern.

University School is a community where relationships are pivotal to learning. As such, the personal qualities of this candidate are vital. These include being a supportive, engaged, and flexible role model who demonstrates both a sense of humor and an infectious enthusiasm for working with students. The candidate should also be comfortable guiding students in developing positive relationships with others who are older and younger. He or she must also be able to work effectively with others in a spirit of collegiality and understand that teaching is a moral act.

We are devoted to our teachers' professional and personal development. University School teachers are certified in American Red Cross CPR/AED and have completed Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children sexual abuse prevention program.

The South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) has recognized our faculty and staff: Head of School of the Year (2013), Middle School Teacher of the Year (2018), Elementary School Teacher of the Year (2020), and High School Teacher of the Year (2023, 2021), Middle School Math Teacher of the Year (2023).

Interested in Applying / Learning More?

University School offers a competitive salary that is commensurate with skills and experiences.

Please contact directly by email only to the Head of School, Jason Kreutner (jkreutner@uslowcountry.org).

For more information, or to apply now, please go to the website below.

<https://uslowcountry.org/about/employment/>

University School of the Lowcountry is committed to its growth as an institution that welcomes and values a diversified school community. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, religion, economic background, or any other classification protected by law in the administration of its educational policies, financial assistance policies, or any other school policy or program.