

SOCIAL WORKER VACANCY CIRCULAR

School Name: West End Secondary School for Urban Studies

District: 03

School Site: 227 West 61st Street, New York, New York, 10023

Send Cover Letter, Resume and Portfolio to: westendsecondary@gmail.com

POSITIONS

Social Worker

DESCRIPTION

West End Secondary School empowers students to achieve at the highest level by cultivating their innate curiosity and nurturing their natural ability to wonder and create. We envision our classrooms to be a safe context in which adolescents can work through problems with guidance and the necessary supports to arrive at their own true discovery. The delight that characterizes the moment when one reaches an understanding, arrives at the derivation of a formula, or acknowledges the connection between a math problem and its application to engineering are extraordinary moments in a student's development. These accomplishments are most memorably achieved and valued when a student ventures into this territory as a result of carefully planned learning experiences that place the teacher as the facilitator of learning.

WESS will emphasize the central role that the student plays in his or her own learning process, understanding that students learn best when they discern the value in learning and enjoy getting there. We will immerse students in authentic learning experiences that require investigation, discovery, and innovative thinking. Through carefully crafted interdisciplinary units of study designed to spark their imaginations, students will develop the capacity to become reflective questioners and critical thinkers who consider multiple perspectives. It is the expectation that our students, teachers, and school leaders recognize the importance of lifelong learning and continuously seek out ways they can grow and learn.

A 10-day summer planning institute will offer an essential opportunity for staff to be involved in developing the school's culture and instructional program.

Because we believe that all staff members play an important role in the education of our students, the school will offer opportunities for social workers to support and participate in activities such as:

- After-school and/or Saturday tutoring programs, enrichment, sports, arts, and family programs
- In-house school committees and/or special programs.
- Daytime professional development such as inquiry work and collaborative conversation among staff members

Advance notice of dates will be supplied, and those who participate will be compensated according to the terms of the UFT contract. Staff participation in these activities is voluntary, although strongly encouraged, as they are very important to the development of the school.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

New York State Certified Social Worker with satisfactory ratings and attendance.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Because roles in small schools are varied and complex, serious consideration will be given to applicants who demonstrate in their resume and cover letter experience and/or willingness to commit to the school's mission and core beliefs and to become involved in these essential aspects:

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- Counseling to facilitate professional growth and collaboration that supports overall learning environment for students
- Participating in regular faculty development, reflective practice, professional organizations, peer coaching and Critical Friends Group work
- Counseling students, individually and in groups, regarding discipline, social and emotional development, substance abuse, conflict mediation, and making appropriate referrals
- Maintaining regular and open communication with parents
- Having an open door policy for all members of the school community
- Providing strategies and work with teachers to promote social and emotional competence in the classroom
- Participating in community outreach events that foster healthy family involvement
- Working collaboratively with staff and families to address attendance issues and help improve students' attendance
- Working collaboratively with staff to ensure services are most effectively organized for students
- Leading school's Pupil Personnel Team (PPT) and effectively create and implement plans of action for students whom the team identifies as those needing interventions

SELECTION CRITERIA

The successful candidate will demonstrate:

- Willingness to carry out the above duties and responsibilities
- Success in forming successful partnerships with community-based organizations and other organizations that offer social and emotional supports to students
- Knowledge of or ability to make referrals for students in need of additional services or alternative placements
- Evidence of successful counseling strategies with regard to discipline, social and emotional development, substance abuse, and conflict mediation
- Knowledge of both ELL/ESL standards and Special Education compliance requirements.
- Knowledge of NYCDOE systems
- English Language Learners; students with special needs and their families Ability to articulate strategies with other building staff to promote social and emotional competence in the classroom, recognize and address bullying techniques, and implement a behavior modification plan.
- Evidence of success leading workshops and discussions with/for parents
- Strong leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills
- Ability to effectively communicate orally and writing with colleagues, parents, students, and the community
- Commitment or willingness to continuous professional growth (e.g. professional development, formal education, professional literature)

In addition to the cover letter, resume, and interview, applicants must present three references including, if possible, one from a current supervisor. Other references might include a colleague with whom the applicant has collaborated, and/or a professional organization or staff development representative.

WORK SCHEDULE & SALARY

As per Collective Bargaining Agreement