



## Lower School (Kindergarten-4th) Learning Specialist

### About MTS:

Mount Tamalpais School, MTS, a K-8 independent school serving up to 240 students in Mill Valley, California is looking for a Lower School Learning Specialist. This teacher reports to the Lower School Division Head and works in partnership with dedicated colleagues.

At MTS, our Mission calls on us to develop “knowledge and goodness” and to be “inspiring and nurturing” in our work as educators. The new Lower School Learning Specialist will help students flourish academically and individually, developing the foundations necessary to positively contribute in their ever-expanding spheres of influence and succeed in their learning endeavors. This person will empower our young learners and fuel their wonder, big dreams, and academic prowess.

The new Lower School Learning Specialist will provide consistent, clear parent communication and support. They will be a partner in education who supports students, families, teachers, and outside specialists.

We seek an educator adept in a variety of student support models and who values a wide range of teaching and assessment practices. As a teaching partner, we value an individual experienced in creating innovative and engaging lessons, and differentiating research-based curricula to best support the whole child within the classroom environment.

MTS is committed to a diverse and inclusive community. We are seeking a person to add to, and enhance, our work in diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as cultural competency.

We know that the COVID pandemic has drastically changed what schools look like, and can assure applicants that careful planning, a vigilant parent and faculty community, and strong resources make MTS a safe place to teach in 2021-22. We have dramatically limited the number of students teachers see, and utilize our beautiful outdoor spaces on campus as much as possible. This cohorting coupled with testing, universal face coverings, daily health screenings, and professional-grade air purifiers, has helped us safely reopen on-campus instruction since September 2020.

MTS is an exciting place to be in 2021-2022, with a significant budget for professional development, new leadership, and a clear vision for the future. A Learning Specialist will thrive who is ready to contribute their expertise, work flexibly within a variety of support models, and be a collaborative partner with teachers, parents, and administration.

We look forward to welcoming a Learning Specialist whose work and actions promote students being seen, valued, heard, empowered, and well-supported in a rigorous, inspiring academic environment.

#### Requirements:

- Master's Degree, Graduate certification, and/or professional certification as a learning specialist, educational therapist, or special education teacher; *candidates with abundant experience and training in supporting students with learning differences and complex learning profiles, and who are willing to engage in continued training to support the diverse needs of learners, are also encouraged to apply*
- A passion for helping students with diverse learning profiles and challenges be successful in the classroom and excel in learning
- Sincere love and appreciation for Lower School students; demonstrating empathy, understanding, and partnership with families and teachers
- Excellent interpersonal skills, communication and situational awareness, communicating and collaborating with parents, students, teachers and administrators
- Understanding of DEI, social justice, and anti-racist work from a personal and/or professional perspective
- Ability to communicate, listen and work with a variety of constituencies and perspectives
- Promote a joyful, inspiring, and student-centered environment for learning
- Show initiative and be a team player

#### Classroom Support Responsibilities:

- Push into Lower School classrooms to assist grade level teachers with targeted, differentiated instruction.
- Lead remedial small groups and provide one-on-one instruction in reading, writing, spelling/handwriting, and math to students across the K-4 grades.
- Assist teachers with identifying and implementing strategies, accommodations, and differentiated instruction that enable students with learning needs to be successful in the classroom with both academic and social-emotional goals

- Collaborate with teaching team to identify, design, and implement activities that support fine motor skills, sensory needs, phonics, phonemic awareness, numeracy, comprehension, executive functioning, movement, etc. within curricular instruction
- Implement in-house screenings (language, processing skills, memory, etc.) and coordinate follow up meetings with teachers and parents

#### Communication and Administrative Responsibilities:

- Write mid and end of trimester reports for all students instructed that trimester in targeted small group or one-on-one pull out support
- For students with identified learning differences, assist, advise, and interpret recommendations for accommodations and modifications
- Act as a primary liaison between faculty and outside professionals to support students with learning differences who receive outside support.
- Participate in Grade Level Meetings to share and receive notes about students' experiences across departments; maintain and distribute updated information to Grade Level team and provide assistance to teachers to ensure cohesive understanding and support for students across departments
- Participate in Student Support Team Meetings with administration, teachers, parents, and outside specialists for those students identified with learning differences
- Update and maintain information on a digital platform, regarding students' learning needs; ensure pertinent history and updates are available and shared with grade level team
- As needed, join teachers in meetings, conferences, and other parent communications for consultation and discussion of individual student's learning needs
- With consultation from administration and grade level teams, recommend outside evaluation and services to families, when necessary; maintain updated contact and referral list

#### Broader School Community Responsibilities:

- Be a collaborative partner to classroom teachers, respecting and understanding the lenses and expertise each bring to the support of the student and family
- Design and facilitate faculty education opportunities on topics of learning diversity and differentiation, as needed

- Participate as part of the Admissions Committee, as needed
- As needed, provide parent education events, share resources, communication, and support to current and prospective families via digital platforms

If interested, please send a resume and cover letter to [jobs@mttam.org](mailto:jobs@mttam.org)