

**\*\*FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2008- 2009\*\***

Reports to: Headmaster

Job Description: Choral Director/Vocal Teacher

The Boston Arts Academy, a public high school for the visual and performing arts, is starting its 11th year in September 2008 with 440 students in Grades 9 - 12. It is a joint project of the Professional Arts Consortium, Inc., (comprising the Berklee College of Music, Boston Architectural Center, the Boston Conservatory, Emerson College Massachusetts College of Arts, and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts) and the Boston Public Schools. The Boston Arts Academy is charged with being a laboratory and a beacon for artistic and academic innovation. The Boston Arts Academy prepares a diverse community of aspiring artist-scholars to be successful in their college or professional careers and to be engaged members of a democratic society.

This innovative school features a college preparatory curriculum supporting integrated and interdisciplinary teaching and learning among arts and academic disciplines. Students explore the arts in both traditional and new media forms. The Academy's program is enriched by the involvement of the six members of the Professional Arts Consortium. Both the program and the student body at the Academy reflect the culture, ethnic and linguistic diversity of Boston.

The Academy is a Pilot School and a member of the Boston Pilot Schools Network, a group of Boston Public Schools that, by union contract, have been granted increased autonomy and flexibility to be laboratories of educational innovation. This includes the right to extend the school day and year for both faculty and students.

Teachers at the Academy undertake a number of special responsibilities. The Academy offers academic classes as well as classes in the visual and performing arts. Often classes integrate artistic and academic subjects. Faculty members work together to develop curriculum in all areas. The school day for students and teachers has been scheduled to run from 7:55 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and 7:55 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Fridays. Two times a month, there are scheduled meetings for teachers until 5 p.m.

The school year for students will be similar to the Boston Public Schools, but the actual school calendar may differ in terms of professional days for teachers and other aspects. All students will be members of an Advisory Group and most faculty will serve as Advisors. (Advisory is a small group of students who come together periodically to provide academic, social and emotional support to all students.) Many teachers also teach a grade-level writing course to students. Students are assessed through a variety of measures: Traditional tests, performances, exhibitions, and portfolios. More comprehensive material about the

approach to teaching and learning is available upon request, as well as on the website.

Responsibilities:

1. Direct the Concert and Select choruses. In addition to preparing students for performances, duties include implementing curriculum and assessments that develop musicianship and support general learning skills
2. Teach two voice classes, one each in the upper and lower house. Objectives for voice classes include proper tone production, sight reading and repertoire development.
3. Coordinate choral activities in conjunction with the department chair and the development team.
4. Work with the piano class instructor, lower house choral director and the department chair to evaluate the 9<sup>th</sup> grade piano class curriculum.
5. Attend weekly music team meetings and period work sessions as scheduled.
6. Along with other core music faculty, participate in strategic planning and department management. Areas include but are not limited to assessment, recruitment and outreach, implementing technology, student case management, and festival participation.
7. Participate in the creation of an integrated interdisciplinary arts-infused curriculum including producing concerts.
8. Lead an advisory group of 8-12 students, providing advice, support and evaluation for assigned students.
9. Teach OR co-teach a grade-level writing seminar.
10. Communicate regularly with parents/caregivers about student progress.
11. Arrange and attend evening meetings with families of students in Advisory Group (and other students as appropriate) as least twice a year, and be generally accessible to families.
12. Accept flexible assignments, such as team and interdisciplinary teaching, working with different age groups and ability levels, etc.
13. Work with university, college and community collaborators.
14. Perform general administrative tasks to teaching and advising.
15. Work for two days after the end of school year in June reviewing and evaluating year and completing activities.
16. Participate in one annual retreat which could fall on a weekend.
17. Work an extended day of eight hours, with occasional additional time as required for student performance and presentation activities.
18. Participate in intensive professional development activities during the school year and after/before the academic year in order to increase skills as special education teachers. Our goal is to have all new teachers certified in special education within two years.
19. Take part in curriculum workshops, tentatively scheduled for the week of August 25, 2008.

Qualifications:

Required:

1. Familiarity with digital keyboards and music software.
2. Possession of (or eligibility to receive) a Massachusetts preliminary license in Music-All Levels. For more information on teacher licensure, call the Massachusetts Department of Education at 781-338-6600.
3. Commitment to receive certification in special education.
4. Commitment to the arts as an important element in a complete education.
5. Commitment to cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity as an element in a complete education.
6. Experience and/or willingness to be trained in integrated or theme-based curriculum and performance, or portfolio-based assessment.
7. Ability to take on responsibilities and prioritize quickly.
8. Flexible working hours.
9. Hold a Bachelors Degree (copy of transcript required).
10. Ability to work within a complex bureaucracy.
11. Excellent communication skills.
12. Meets/will meet all state and federal guidelines in order to be fully licensed and "Highly Qualified" according to NCLB.
13. Current authorization to work in the United States - Candidates must have such authorization by their first day of employment.

Preferred:

1. Three years teaching experience, preferably in an urban high school setting.
2. Masters Degree or equivalent thereof.
3. Ability and/or certification to teach in multiple subject areas.
4. Special education, reading or bilingual certification.
5. Fluency in languages in addition to English.
6. Experience as an artist.
7. Interest or experience in more than one discipline.
8. Experience working with local cultural institutions.
9. Experience with new technology relating to arts and education.
10. Experience working in a heterogeneous classroom.
11. Experience with portfolio assessment.

Terms: BTU, Group I

**To Apply: Send a resume & letters of recommendation to:  
Deborah Pullen, Business Manager, Boston Arts Academy, 174 Ipswich Street,  
Boston, MA 02115. Any questions contact Deborah Pullen at 617-635-6470 x336 or  
by email at [dpullen@bostonartsacademy.org](mailto:dpullen@bostonartsacademy.org).  
Starting March 10, 2008 all applicants must apply on line at the Boston Public  
Schools website [www.bostonpublicschools.org](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org).**