



## **ELEMENTARY GARDEN SPECIALIST TEACHER**

Opportunity starting in the Fall of 2021. Alta Vista Lower School is seeking a dynamic full-time garden specialist educator. This position includes many different roles at the school, and the key focus will be to prepare and instruct an excellent age appropriate garden program where students are encouraged to develop their environmental and ecological awareness.

Sustainability/ Regenerative Practices is a school-wide value that is supported by all faculty with initiatives led by the Garden Specialist Teacher. Existing school green infrastructure includes a 1000 gallon rainwater catchment system, rooftop wind turbine, zero-waste practices in the lunchroom, 100% recycled paper, California native plant garden, Tinker Zone and Tinker Room for building and engineering, and playground structures made of cob.

The Alta Vista School garden has been transformed over the last eight years from an old basketball court into a thriving outdoor classroom, including many amenities to comfortably teach ecology and sustainability. Garden systems include: 440-gallon rainwater catchment, large roof structure covering two cob benches, a whiteboard, greenhouse, tool shed, mature fruit trees, 75+ variety of edible and medicinal plants, raised garden beds with drip irrigation, and a pond with musical water catchment system.

The candidate should have previous garden teaching experience with an experiential and interactive instructional style. Candidates should demonstrate flexibility, energy, enthusiasm, and high expectations of themselves and their students. Successful candidates will have lower school garden classroom teaching experience and an advanced degree in education, sciences, or related field. In addition, the candidate should be able to promote a positive and responsive classroom culture. Strong communication skills and professional ethics are essential.

If interested, send a cover letter and resume to the Alta Vista lower school hiring committee, at [LShiring.committee@altavistaschoolsf.org](mailto:LShiring.committee@altavistaschoolsf.org).



**The Position:** Garden Specialist Teacher

Traits and Requirements:

- Develop high-quality, innovative curriculum aligned with the mission of Alta Vista School.
- Develop, organize, and implement lesson plans and instructional materials.
- Provide students with opportunities to question, investigate, and wonder.
- Design and maintain a vibrant outdoor classroom to teach the importance of local foods, composting, habitat for garden creatures, and provide a safe experience for students.
- Work cooperatively and collegially with the school's administration, the faculty and staff, and the parents to create and maintain an exemplary school environment with a focus on leading initiatives for school-wide sustainability practices.
- Prepare for and actively participate in all school activities, faculty meetings, and conferences, including those with parents, during and after school hours as may be necessary.
- Cultivate collaboration, transparency, inclusion, curiosity, fun, innovation, and excellence in a dynamic learning community.
- Possess a passion for biology, ecology, and gardening and have the ability to spark student motivation and love of learning.
- Interested in sustainable systems that communities can adopt and engage in such as food systems, composting, recycling, and trash, energy, water systems, etc.
- In-depth knowledge of subject curricula and best teaching practices for outdoor education.
- Willingness to examine your own teaching with a critical eye in order to continuously improve one's practice and take advantage of all opportunities to grow as a teacher.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree
- Experience teaching at elementary level education
- Proficiency building and using tools preferred
- Permaculture Design experience preferred

Alta Vista is committed to being a safe and welcoming place for all families, students, and faculty. The Alta Vista School does not discriminate against employees on the basis of race, color, religious creed, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or disability.