



## **Lower School Reading Specialist August 2020**

Founded in 1889, The Wheeler School is a co-educational independent day school for over 800 students from Nursery through Grade Twelve in Providence, Rhode Island. Central to the School's philosophy is a simple concept: Wheeler is a place where we strive to make any pursuit possible for our students, where choice, inquiry, and interest are of primary import, where we know individuals well and insist upon and nurture intellectual character, empathy, critical thinking, and creative spirit.

Ideal candidates for faculty and staff positions at Wheeler are people with a sense of humor, warmth, and humility. They are excellent communicators, with an ability to listen and a desire to learn from colleagues. They are ambitious and hardworking, often going over and above to support and challenge students. When developing curriculum and programming, our faculty and staff members are collaborative, striving each year to stretch and grow, to implement new ideas that improve the Wheeler experience for students and our overall community. They come from all professional walks of life - graduate programs, private and public schools, and other careers entirely. More than anything, our faculty and staff members love to spend their days with young people, and enjoy all that the Wheeler community - creative, energetic, dynamic, and diverse - has to offer.

Wheeler is seeking a full time experienced reading specialist and academic support teacher to provide leadership and innovation in reading curriculum and instruction in Nursery through Grade 5. The candidate will oversee academic support for students and coordinate professional support for teachers. Successful candidates will love working with children, be energetic collaborators and learners, possess a passionate commitment to implementing best practices for literacy acquisition, and is detailed and process oriented. A successful candidate will also be eager to join a dynamic and collaborative faculty, and will aspire to work with students with many different strengths and learning styles.

The Lower School Reading Specialist and Academic Support Teacher reports to the Director of Lower School.

## **Responsibilities**

### Reading Specialist

- Provide targeted support to small groups in Grade 1 through 5
- Guide teachers in implementing best practices for literacy instruction
- Maintain records and share progress accordingly

### Academic Support

- Coordinate and monitor academic support and intervention programming
- Attend weekly department meetings
- Maintain academic support files
- Initiate and oversee the coordination of provider services (speech & language, occupational therapy, reading screenings or tutors)
- Maintain regular parent communication with families as needed
- Provide or share professional development opportunities with teachers as needed
- Oversee and support the use of data to inform instruction
- Collaborate with Hamilton and other divisions on academic support

### Other Responsibilities

- Duties as assigned
- Weekly faculty meeting attendance

## **Professional and Personal Qualifications**

Education: Bachelor's degree required. Master's degree preferred

### Work Experience:

- Minimum of three years' experience in a relevant position that includes work with children in this age group
- Knowledge of current research and best practices related to reading instruction; familiarity with alphabetic principle and the science of reading and spelling
- Familiarity and training in specific reading approaches (Orton Gillingham, Wilson, Lindamood Bell, EBLI)
- Experience using technology to support students' literacy acquisition
- Experience reading, understanding and summarizing neuro-psychological evaluations
- Demonstrated commitment to ongoing education/continuing professional development

### Dispositions:

- **Communication Skills:** Strong written and oral communication skills and experience communicating with families of various backgrounds and perspectives.
- **Interpersonal Skills:** Superior interpersonal skills, the ability to engage effectively with students, parents, faculty, and other members of the school community in a way reflective of

the school's culture and to project professional competence, leadership capability, discretion, judgment and personal maturity.

- Leadership: Proven track record as an informal or formal leader of faculty, students and programs in independent schools.

To learn more about Wheeler, please visit [www.wheelerschool.org](http://www.wheelerschool.org), and our Careers page [here](#).

### **Statement on Diversity and Cultural Competency**

At Wheeler we actively seek students, faculty, and staff from diverse backgrounds in the belief that a broad range of experiences and viewpoints enhance learning, enrich life on campus, and better prepare us all for full participation in a pluralistic, democratic society. We seek to further the overall diversity and cultural competency within our community through hiring.

### **How to Apply**

Please send a resume and cover letter to Felicia Vinces, Director of the Lower School, at [feliciavinces@wheelerschool.org](mailto:feliciavinces@wheelerschool.org) and cc Director of Strategic Innovations and N-8 Divisions, Young Un, at [youngun@wheelerschool.org](mailto:youngun@wheelerschool.org). List the position title in the subject heading. Applications will be accepted through March 6.

*The Wheeler School is committed to our policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all employees and qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin or disability, and any other category protected by federal, state, or local law.*