

SOCIAL JUSTICE SCHOOL

Organizational Overview:

Our mission is to catalyze an integrated community of middle-school learners to be scholar-activists who are designers of a more just world. In order to design a more just world, our students require an education that embraces and lives out a set of core beliefs about what it means to be human.

The SJS Community will proudly reflect the diversity of America – racially and socioeconomically diverse, integrated, democratic, and problem-solving. Students, teachers, and parents develop a passion for social justice and are empowered to identify needs and enact change in their school, community, and the world. Our **academic model** is rooted in social justice, built around culturally responsive learning, keeps learning active through expeditionary learning, and empowers students with design thinking projects.

Overview

We are looking to recruit a diverse teacher team who is willing to co-create an engaging learning experience for students that is rooted in social justice. **Social Justice, Organizing and Advocacy** will have the same responsibilities as a general education teacher. The Liberatory Design Thinking framework and mindsets combined are a complexity-centered approach to design for equity co-created from a collaboration with the National Equity Project and the Stanford d.school K12 Lab. Liberatory design thinking builds on the creative "design thinking" tools used across industries to build human-centered products, processes, and solutions.

To do so, the following mindsets and experiences are highly valued:

- A focus on the community over the individual (i.e there is no "I" in team)
- An equity-centered mindset and advocate for social justice issues
- A designer's mindset-- the willingness to fail fast and often
- The ability to be vulnerable and wrestle with discomfort when you might not know the right answer
- An entrepreneurial mindset flexibility and comfort with ambiguity
- Comfort in using data to drive instruction
- A belief that young people have the capacity to change the world
- Demonstrate commitment to youth leadership, racial equity and systemic change;

The primary responsibilities of an LDT Social Justice School classroom teacher include:

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- Plan/Implement Learning Expeditions rooted in Social Justice (Liberatory Design Thinking Lab Teacher)
- Assist with professional development around Liberatory Design Thinking
- Teach students how to use the Liberatory Design Thinking process to tackle real-world issues
- Commit to having courageous conversations about race, equity and social justice
- Create and implement lesson plans that link Art, Activism and Social Justice
- Use a variety of different types of mediums, such as 3d printers, t-shirt making stations and button making stations, in order to inspire social change
- **Support scholar-activists in leading schoolwide advocacy campaigns**
- **Support scholar-activists and staff members in stakeholder engagement (council, ANC, Mayor, etc)**
- **Train and prepare youth leaders to conduct research and to develop and engage in various advocacy and organizing strategies and tactics**
- **Provide written and oral testimony on relevant legislation and analyze DC youth-related budget proposals**
- **Represent SJS as needed at coalition meetings, council meetings and other opportunities that support youth campaigns**
- **Plan, launch and implement citywide design challenge**
- **Support scholar-activists in connecting with community organizers/organizations that are involved in related work**
- Practices the craft and/or mindsets of design while developing the life-long discipline of self-awareness of who they are bringing (or not) to any person or context
- Partner and communicate with families to ensure student progress, services, and supports
- Co-create school advocacy and project curriculum
- Create a physically and emotionally safe and inclusive classroom culture and environment that demonstrates SJS' Habits of Character by consistently modeling our values, practicing PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) and Developmental Designs, practicing Restorative Justice techniques, displaying recent showcasing student work, and maximizing instructional time
- Engage parents and families in their students' academic success via annual IEP meetings, goals and regular updates
- Participate in the summer institute and weekly professional development
- Be an active member of the SJS Professional Learning Community
- Contribute to the productivity of the school as a whole
- Commit to having courageous conversations about race, equity and social justice

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- Attend and participate in school events outside of normal school hours

Requirements:

- 2-years minimum experience working with middle school in an urban setting with a diverse group of students
- Demonstrated knowledge of special education, including teaching, supports and compliance Flexible and entrepreneurial mindset
- Strong belief that all students can learn at high levels when given the right supports
- 1-3 years of experience facilitating trainings or workshops;
- At least one year experience supporting advocacy and organizing efforts
- Experience working or living in D.C (or having meaningful relationships with community)

Compensation

The Social Justice School offers a competitive salary and benefits packages commensurate with experience.

We strongly encourage people of color to apply. The Social Justice School is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes everyone, including LGBTQ people, to join our team.

TO APPLY:

Please go to <https://thesocialjusticeschool.org/careers/> to apply.