



## Lower School Teaching Assistant Sarasota, FL

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Located on two campuses totaling 95 acres in beautiful, Sarasota, Florida, The Out-of-Door Academy (ODA) is an independent, coeducational, college preparatory day school serving 745 students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. At Out-of-Door, students are happy, engaged, and excited about their academic, artistic, athletic, and personal growth. A talented and dedicated faculty challenge students to reach their full potential while providing a high level of individual guidance and support. The school's rigorous and innovative academic program ensures that learning is both meaningful and lasting. Robust offerings in the arts, athletics and service learning enrich the ODA experience and provide opportunities for students to discover and develop their unique interests and talents. Graduates leave Out-of-Door not only academically prepared but also with the strength of character and passion for learning that provide a strong foundation for future success in higher education and in life. Out-of-Door's core values: Respect, Integrity, Service, Excellence, and Responsibility are the foundation of our school community.

Out-of-Door was founded on Siesta Key in 1924 to serve students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. In 1996, a second campus in the Lakewood Ranch area of Sarasota was acquired to accommodate the addition of an upper school. Over the past ten years, the school has experienced steady and impressive enrollment growth from 550 to 745 students. Both campuses have evolved and developed to meet the needs of a growing enrollment as well as to enhance and enrich the experience of every student at ODA. Today, the five-acre Siesta Key campus is home to the Lower School (PK-5), and the 90-acre Uihlein Campus in Lakewood Ranch houses both the Middle and Upper Schools. Facilities include interactive technology in every classroom, a fine and performing arts center with a black box theater, a student and STEM Center, a competition gymnasium with a wellness center, a field house, a lighted stadium, tennis courts and a practice complex. A new Middle School campus was recently completed and opened in August, 2020.



The Out-of-Door Academy seeks a **Lower School Teaching Assistant** to join a thriving school that is committed to providing a rigorous, relevant, and student-centered learning experience for every student we serve. The successful candidate will bring a positive, professional, and collaborative approach to a talented team of colleagues. They will embrace the school's core values, demonstrate a growth mindset, and show empathy and compassion for all members of the Out-of-Door community. They will also understand the importance of developing healthy, lasting relationships with students while inspiring them to reach their full academic and personal potential. The ideal candidate will be passionate about teaching the whole child and will understand the value of contributing to the broader life of the school community, including advising, coaching, and leading extra-curricular activities.

**Responsibilities**

Reporting to the Head of Lower School, the *Lower School Teaching Assistant* will be responsible for the following:

- Oversee and plan individual and small group instruction to differentiate instruction.
- Collect and maintain data on student academic progress.
- Provide timely feedback to students, and collaborate with faculty to offer specialized support in pursuit of each student's learning goals.
- Facilitate and design effective group/collaborative work and productive dialogue among students and teachers to enhance the program and student experience.
- Assist the lead teacher in all aspects of day-to-day classroom activities.
- Select appropriate materials and resources to enrich and enhance the curriculum.
- Live the school's mission and core values of respect, integrity, service, excellence, and responsibility.

**Qualifications****Experience, Skills & Knowledge**

- Bachelor's Degree in elementary education required; Master's Degree preferred.
- Minimum of three (3) years of teaching experience in Pre-K through 5th grade, ideally in an independent school setting.
- Aspire to become a lead teacher.
- A passion for learning and the ability to motivate and inspire students.
- Proficient with Word, Excel and the Google drive platform.
- A successful track record of working effectively with a wide range of constituencies including students, faculty, staff and parents.

**Personal Attributes**

- An honest person who will live the school's values and who effectively blends candor, care, and empathy in dealing with others, and whose style is rooted in honesty, transparency and collaboration.
- A thoughtful individual who embraces managed risk-taking and experimenting with new ideas, and is excited by the opportunity to help a well established and thriving independent school reach new levels of success.
- A flexible, open-minded individual who is comfortable with ambiguity, sees the "grays" rather than simply the "black and white" of various issues, and possesses the courage to follow through on his or her beliefs and convictions.
- An approachable, collaborative professional, who values teamwork, builds meaningful relationships, listens well, and respects differences of opinion.
- A thinker who possesses excellent communication skills and a high level of emotional intelligence.
- A hard-working professional who thrives in a fast-paced work environment with high expectations.

**Compensation and Benefits**

This is a 10-month full-time exempt position available in August 2021. Compensation is highly competitive and commensurate with experience and includes a comprehensive benefits package.

At Out-of-Door, we value a diverse workforce. Applicants of any race, creed, physical ability, color, religion, sex, age, gender, sexual orientation or national origin are encouraged to apply. Once an offer is accepted, the position will require the successful completion of a national background screening and drug testing.