



## TREASURE VALLEY CLASSICAL ACADEMY

### **Student Services Director (Special Education Lead)**

Treasure Valley Classical Academy (TVCA) is seeking a Student Services Director (Special Education Lead) who will be responsible for overseeing and managing all aspects of student services and support.

General philosophy: TVCA features a content-rich curriculum and teaching style that instructs and inspires all students, employs necessary support and accommodations in the classroom setting to ensure that students acquire the material, and uses targeted pullout and other supports to make sure that students learn what they must, especially language, in order to thrive in the regular classroom.

Language arts and mathematics focus: Students with learning challenges often have deficiencies in language and in mathematics. The explicit teaching of phonics gives students the tools to break the complex code that is the English language. Whereas some students (even before entering school) learn to read by a basic introduction to the alphabet, those students who do not intuit language readily are helped immensely when they see the alphabet and letter combinations broken down into their constituent sounds. TVCA uses a similar approach to mathematics in by imparting a basic number sense through drill and repetition and conceptual understanding through explicit explanation of mathematical operations. Not surprisingly, a high number of parents of special needs students bring their children to the school for the curriculum itself and most certainly do not want them pulled out of core subjects where the majority of instruction takes place.

Teaching methodology: TVCA teachers employ direct and explicit instruction in delivering the material. Students are able to learn through a combination of lecture, storytelling, question-and-answer, choral response and other techniques that involve teachers and students in a dialogue. The Socratic element of the discussions (question and answer, leading to further questions) makes the class engaging and also holds students accountable for what they know or tells the teacher when students need further clarification.

Full inclusion model merged with targeted pullouts: The inclusion model for special education is chosen for a definite reason. What is being taught in the classroom is what the students need to learn and want to learn. But students in special education often also need help with that learning. To that end, TVCA looks at each student's individual needs, tracks how the student is doing in the classroom, gives support where needed in the classroom, and, where necessary, uses targeted pullout time to provide extra teaching and resource and study-skills time to ensure that students are

remediated where needed and are able to understand what is being taught. In the case where students come to the school behind or deficient in the area of language, TVCA uses targeted pullout time in order to remediate their reading, writing, spelling, and grammar while they are still learning English in the regular classroom. Once a student has a solid linguistic foundation, his or her understanding of the other subjects—whether literature, history, science, and even math—increases substantially. TVCA seeks to avoid pulling students out of their core academic subjects.

Within this context, the Student Services Director will oversee the school's efforts to assist students with disabilities (students which meet federal and state criteria for placement in special education), in achieving individualized and general education curriculum goals and objectives as determined by an Individual Education Plan (IEP). In addition, the Student Services Director will oversee Response to Intervention (RTI) programs designed to assist students with learning challenges. These duties generally include the following responsibilities:

- Demonstrates thorough knowledge and understanding of special education laws and procedures.
- Develops and implements Individual Education Plans (IEPs).
- Develops and implements Response to Intervention (RTI) plans.
- Maintains student compliance files in accordance with federal, state and local procedures.
- Develops instructional goals that adequately reflect identified individual student needs as determined by evaluation or assessment.
- Uses assessment results to plan for individual and group instruction.
- Supervises paraprofessionals and volunteers.
- Regularly communicates with students and parents about student progress.
- Maintains and submits data for Medicaid billing (as necessary).

All TVCA teachers must have at least an undergraduate degree and strong background knowledge in their fields (ideally in the humanities and liberal arts). In addition, candidates ought to have a passion for learning and be kind-hearted towards children. These faculty positions offer the opportunity to help our elementary students develop virtuous character and build a critical foundation in the core academic disciplines. The right candidate will have a desire help students “learn the true, do the good, and love the beautiful.”

Treasure Valley Classical Academy is a tuition-free charter school that will open K-6 in the 2019 academic year and grow a grade each year after that to become a K-12 school. The curriculum in the elementary school consists of explicit phonics in spelling and reading; grammar via traditional methods of instruction; the Core Knowledge sequence (not to be confused with Common Core) in literature, history, and science; Singapore math; and Latin and Greek roots. Daily study in Latin will be required from the seventh to eighth grade, and another year of Latin is mandatory in the high school. Great books and Socratic discussion commence in the upper elementary school. The upper-school curriculum centers on the reading and discussion of great books in

literature, primary sources in history, and on a thorough understanding of both the facts and the concepts in mathematics and the sciences. The study of art and music is required K-8, and art and music electives are offered as well. To graduate, all seniors must write a senior thesis and deliver and defend it orally in front of fellow students, members of the faculty, and the principal. Teachers are hired based upon their mastery of academic disciplines and their capacity for conveying knowledge to young people. Treasure Valley Classical Academy is affiliated with the Barney Charter School Initiative at Hillsdale College.

Interested candidates should go to the employment page on the school's website ([www.tvcademy.org](http://www.tvcademy.org)) to apply. Applicants should send a cover letter, a statement of educational philosophy (500 words or less), a resume or *curriculum vitae*, and college transcripts (unofficial acceptable initially). Questions should be addressed to the principal, Mr. Stephen Lambert at [hr@tvacademy.org](mailto:hr@tvacademy.org). Candidates must understand and support the mission of Treasure Valley Classical Academy.

