



STUDENT SUPPORT ADVOCATE - 80% FTE
June 2018 Posting

Are you a dedicated and passionate educator who sees the unique gifts in each and every child? Do you light up with strategies for ways to support children with varied learning, mental, and emotional differences? Are you patient, flexible, and resourceful?

We are looking for a **Student Support Advocate** who brings out the best in others through compassion, hard work, a deep understanding of children, and a passion for the learning process. The successful candidate is committed to working with students ages 5 to 14 who have a varied range of learning, mental, emotional, and physical differences.

Our Student Support Advocate assists our classroom and all-school teachers in and out of the classroom to support instruction and learning. The Advocate helps build skills with students who have social, behavioral, and emotional challenges. He or she works one-on-one with students using a multisensory direct instruction approach, is in the classroom offering support, and/or helps to modify expectations. The Advocate also works as part of a team that typically includes the classroom teachers, school administration, and parents. Along with this team, he or she develops student support plans that are specific to the student's needs and abilities. These plans outline goals and services, such as modifications within the classroom, small group work, and one on one time with the Advocate. In addition, the Advocate collaborates with outside counselors, doctors, and other service providers. As such, this person is very involved with parents and must be in frequent communication with the student's family.

Wingra's teaching staff is comprised of passionate educators who recognize the innate potential that lies within every child. We encourage students to approach learning with an open, inquisitive, and critical mind and to go beyond the "facts" toward understanding the "why" and "how". At Wingra, children are deeply known by a supportive circle of adults as well as multi-age peers. Our community is one where students are accepted as their true selves, comfortable to explore, and confident to challenge themselves to try new things; a community where curriculum is flexibly designed to meet the students' unique needs, interests, and abilities; a community where students feel ownership of their educational journey and where their innate motivation to learn is sparked to life and fanned into a strong flame.

General Responsibilities:

- Collaborate with classroom teachers to identify students in need of additional support
- Assess students' skills to determine needs and develop a student support plan that includes a combination of accommodations and modifications *in* the classroom and additional support *outside* of the classroom
- Work one-on-one or in small groups with students who have support plans in place
- Assist classroom teachers by offering suggestions, recommendations, and training to incorporate into classroom practices
- Update student support plans throughout the year to reflect progress and goals
- Discuss a student's progress with parents, teachers, and school administration
- Work with Madison Metropolitan School District administrators who support private schools in Madison
- Prepare and help students transition from grade to grade and after 8th grade graduation

Requirements:

- Quality of mind, passion for teaching, and commitment to the education of children
- Ability to work collaboratively within a team and to communicate effectively with parents
- Orientation to progressive/holistic philosophy and teaching methods
- Friendly demeanor, sense of humor, and flexibility
- Bachelor's degree in education
- Degree in special education (preferred)

To apply:

Please email a 1. Cover letter, 2. Resume, 3. Statement of educational philosophy, and 4. Three letters of reference to: Debbie Millon, Head of School, dmillon@wingraschool.org.

Wingra School, an independent K-8 school located in the heart of Madison, is an inclusive and safe learning community that enhances and empowers the lives of people by offering optimal opportunities for intellectual, emotional, and physical development. Wingra is an equal opportunity employer. We are dedicated to the goal of building a culturally diverse and pluralistic staff to equitably serve children of diverse races, ethnicities, abilities, gender identifications, income levels, and religions.