



POSITION DESCRIPTION: ART AND AESTHETICS TEACHER

About Delaware Valley Classical School

Delaware Valley Classical School (DVCS) is a classical Christian school of 220 students (26'-27') and 30 faculty and staff located in New Castle, Delaware. The school has roots dating back 30 years. At DVCS, we offer a robust K-12 education within the context of a partnership between parents and the school, with a view toward perpetuating the values of excellence, wisdom, joy and gratitude in our community.

Summary

DVCS seeks an Art and Aesthetics teacher able to foster the wonder and creativity of his/her students and then channel that wonder into a commitment to technical skill and mastery. His/her knowledge of classical forms, church history, and artistic movements informs his/her teaching and inspires his/her vision for classical, Christian artists who take the Creation Mandate seriously. He/she recognizes that his/her students are responsible for creating in the image of their Creator, in spite of (or in contradiction of) the loudest secular voices following the Enlightenment and Romantic periods. He/she embraces a generational view of his/her role, knowing that even the most committed Christians (including colleagues) may need great help understanding the importance of art in the Christian life, and that reclaiming a right understanding of art within the Church and classical education may take generations. The ideal art teacher seeks to be a thought and vision partner with a classical, Christian school which aims to foster that right understanding and works alongside parents in making art an important part of their daily lives. The ideal candidate fosters within his/her students and their families a longing for right affections, masterful art, and good taste.

Responsibilities

- Plan and teach sequential, grade-appropriate instruction in painting, drawing, and sculpture across the K-12 program, building technical skill year over year.
- Cultivate students' aesthetic judgment alongside their craft, helping them articulate why a work succeeds or fails and how beauty, truth, and goodness relate.

- Integrate the visual arts with the Great Books and the broader classical curriculum, drawing connections to literature, history, philosophy, and Scripture.
- Assess student work using grade-appropriate, classical methods of evaluation.
- Curate and organize student art exhibitions and displays for the school community.
- Maintain the art studio, materials, and equipment, and co-manage a supply list.
- Collaborate with fellow faculty on cross-curricular units and school-wide events, including chapel or assembly contributions as appropriate.

Experience

Priority will be placed on applicants with both prior teaching experience in a classical Christian school and demonstrated skill in the visual arts, along with a working familiarity with the Great Books tradition. Candidates should be able to show how training in beauty and artistic craft shapes the affections and disposes the mind toward wisdom, and how this integrates with the study of Scripture and the liberal arts across the curriculum.

Ideal Candidate Characteristics

The ideal candidate is passionate about God, children, and classical Christian education, and understands that aesthetic formation and intellectual formation are inseparable—that what students are taught to love shapes what they are able to know and reason well about. He or she is a gifted and experienced teacher of painting, drawing, and sculpture, well-read in the classical tradition, and a joyful communicator able to relate well to and appropriately challenge students across the K-12 span. The candidate will guide students in both the practice of artistic skill and the cultivation of discerning appreciation, helping them see, make, and judge beauty well. Additionally, the ideal candidate possesses and exhibits the following attributes:

- A deep Christian commitment, agreement with the DVCS Statement of Faith, an active church life, and desire to minister to both colleagues and students.
- A vision and enthusiasm for classical Christian education, particularly for the formative role of beauty and the arts in training the affections and the intellect of young students.
- Demonstrated skill and technique in painting, drawing, and sculpture, with the ability to teach foundational artistic practice at a grade-appropriate level across K-12.
- A working knowledge of the Great Books and the history of art and ideas, with the ability to draw connections between visual art, philosophy, literature, and the Christian tradition.
- Demonstrated classical Christian pedagogical effectiveness.
- Humility and relational wisdom.
- Inquisitiveness, with evidence of a well-honed and well-directed curiosity.

- A bachelor's degree.

To Apply

In one email, please submit a cover letter, resume, three references (at least one from prior employment), and a portfolio of your own work (or examples of student work you have supervised, spanning painting, drawing, and sculpture) to Anthony G. Urti, Head of School via email: aurti@dvclassical.org.

Delaware Valley Classical School does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, age, biological sex, or national origin. DVCS reserves the right to hire only those qualified individuals who subscribe to the DVCS Statement of Faith and who agree to abide by the DVCS Employee Code of Conduct. Whenever consistent with its Christian mission, DVCS also complies with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and comparable provisions of Delaware Law. The school reserves the right to use religion as a bona fide occupational hiring criterion, due to the mission and nature of our school as a faith-based institution, and in full compliance with all laws. The school reserves the right established by Delaware law to follow the tenets of its religion in establishing employment criteria.