

# Arts & Letters

## WHO WE ARE

Arts & Letters is a small, child-centered public school in Brooklyn encompassing Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. With only two classes at each grade level, we provide our children with a caring and intimate learning environment. At Arts & Letters we believe that the purpose of public education is to work in partnership with parents and communities to raise young people who are strong and flexible thinkers, and caring, responsible stewards and leaders of a vibrant, democratic society.

In the spirit of this purpose, we at Arts & Letters promise to cultivate joy, rigor, and meaning in each child's education; an education built on a belief that through a rich and challenging questioning of the world and ourselves, we can and will develop creative, confident, and courageous people who will make our world more just, enriched, and compassionate.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

A school is an articulation of a community's hopes and dreams for its children. In order to cultivate our young people into the powerful citizens our community needs, we must create and maintain a culture of excellence.

Therefore, in order:

*To develop strong and flexible thinkers*, our classrooms will be places where students pursue essential questions, big ideas, and the world's history, traditions, and discoveries. Alongside their classmates and teachers, they will explore great literature, big and small mathematical challenges, the disciplines and creative purposes of the arts, and exciting scientific ideas. Classrooms will be rich with purpose; the quality of the work built on feedback and revision. They will learn to read and read to learn, become curious and confident about problems, make specific observations, make sense of data and confidently handle numbers and calculations. They will develop a keen and critical eye to interpret what they see through multiple lenses.

*To develop the caring, responsible stewards and leaders* that our community needs to nurture a vibrant democracy, our young people will have the opportunity to learn from older and younger students, from those of other cultures and neighborhoods, and to spend time hearing one another out. Each project they complete individually and together will take time, require multiple drafts, feedback, and revision. Each piece of work will be celebrated and shared with others in our community. In our school, students will be asked to persevere in the face of difficulty, to celebrate success, and to learn from failure. They will be asked to listen carefully, to take a stand, to defend a new idea, and to take risks.

*To make our world just, enriched and compassionate*, our young people must develop their compassion "muscles," requiring the practices of respect for others, focused and quiet reflection, the search for understanding, and a commitment to responsibility for one's self and for others. In our classrooms, our students will undertake projects that connect our school with our community, and with our past.

*To create a community of adults – both teachers and family members – that helps develop such powerful young people*, the adults must be willing to work together and share their practices with one another. Just as students need multiple experiences with success, failure, and revision, so too do the adults in our community. Schools and communities teach values intentionally and unintentionally; our adults must not only strive to model our values, but also the reflective ability to learn from challenges when they fall short.

Throughout our nine years with each child and family, Arts & Letters is committed to cultivating young people who will fulfill these hopes.

# COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Arts & Letters strives to create a welcoming community of multi-talented, diverse individuals in which all members know that they are valued and appreciated for their unique experience.

We recognize and embrace the valuable offering of each person's race, cultural tradition, religion, gender, nationality, socio-economic position, age, sexual orientation, and physical ability.

We believe that by making each student's learning visible, we are better able to truly see all students and their unique gifts. Our school is committed to nurturing in each of us a better appreciation of our own distinctive voice, of our common humanity and of a sense of ownership in the school community. We believe that participation in an inclusive school culture supports self-esteem and plants the seeds for positive contributions to the world.

*We are committed to:*

- Teaching our students the skills and sensibilities necessary to live in a richly diverse and increasingly global world. To that end, our curriculum explores culture in a spirit of admiration for its infinite variety, while supporting a multi-sensory approach to learning and teaching.
- The constant vigilance, revision and patience required in creating and maintaining a welcoming community. We will need training, renewal and a willingness to change normed practices as well as an openness to creating new traditions.
- Ensuring our community has a significant level of diversity in the student body, the faculty, and the administration.
- Providing the resources and support to achieve these goals.

Our commitment to create a diverse and inclusive community is a vital expression of the vision of Arts & Letters.



## JOIN US!!

We are looking for extremely talented and committed educators to join our K-8 school. We offer many exciting opportunities for teachers, including:

- An intentionally inclusive and diverse school with 1 ICT (integrated co-taught) class per grade and admissions policies in place to maintain socio-economic diversity.
- A highly collaborative, intellectually engaged staff who deepen their practice together through co-planning, inquiry and inter-visitation.
- Opportunities to design deep units of study framed by big questions and culminating with shares and exhibitions.
- School-wide structures (curricular shares, roundtables, Student Led Conferences, community service days, inter-age buddies) that provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning, and develop their voices as thinkers and as community members.
- Student centered classroom environments that cultivate strong and flexible thinkers.
- An explicit focus on social-emotional learning-- supported by morning meetings and an advisory structure in upper grades, and Responsive Classroom practices in K-4.
- A true commitment to arts education with visual art, music, and dance in lower grades and advanced art instruction in visual arts, theater, music, and technology in the middle grades.
- Active communication and collaboration between teachers and school leadership.
- Teacher leadership opportunities unique to a small institution.
- Open and active partnership with families.
- Location in vibrant Fort Greene, Brooklyn.

### **Ideal applicants will demonstrate:**

- Unwavering commitment to young people and to addressing their instructional and social needs through differentiation.
- Ability to integrate small group instruction, rich investigations of essential questions, and interdisciplinary connections into curriculum planning for heterogeneous classrooms.
- Flexibility, comfort with self-reflection, and a problem-solving stance.
- Interest in collaborating with teachers and administration around instruction and school-wide policies.
- Certification to teach in the NYC public schools.
- Excellent communication and organizational skills.
- A commitment to teaching as an act of social justice.
- Excitement for ongoing professional development.

Check us out at [www.artsandlettersbklyn.org](http://www.artsandlettersbklyn.org)

**To Apply:** Please send resume and cover letter to [hiring@artsandlettersbklyn.org](mailto:hiring@artsandlettersbklyn.org).