



## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

GARDEN AND KITCHEN TEACHER, Edible Schoolyard NYC

PS 216, Brooklyn

Exempt Position

## **ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION**

Edible Schoolyard NYC's (ESYNYC) mission is to support edible education for every child in New York City. We partner with New York City public schools to cultivate healthy students and communities through hands-on cooking and gardening education, transforming children's relationship with food. With a staff working full time inside our partner schools, ESYNYC teaches hands-on garden and cooking classes during the school day, offers family programming, and supports a culture of health and wellness throughout the school. We currently work with seven schools directly and also lead a robust Professional Development program.

The ESYNYC program is unlike any other due to its long-term presence in school communities, comprehensive nature, data-driven innovation, and flexible approach. We've demonstrated commitment and resiliency throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and have continued to serve school partners despite challenging circumstances.

Six core values guide our team: 1. Passion and dedication, 2. Community, 3. Learning and discovery, 4. Wellness, 5. Collaboration, and 6. Equity. Our dedicated team of educators and non-profit professionals includes many long-tenured staff members and a strong leadership team.

This is a unionized position with CWA Local 1180.

## **Job Summary**

The Garden and Kitchen Teacher (GKT) conducts daily, regular garden and kitchen education classes for the students of PS 216 and helps in the maintenance and operation of the garden. The GKT also participates in ESYNYC outreach activities, including professional development, extracurricular and family/community events. The teacher works collaboratively with the two other ESYNYC staff members at PS 216 to create and implement programming and works with the staff of PS 216 to ensure that this program is fully integrated within the school community. The position reports jointly to the PS 216 Program Manager and the Director of Program and Education.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

## **TEACHING**

- Teach or co-teach daily garden and kitchen classes to a diverse, urban pre-K-5 student population in accordance with the ESYNYC teaching philosophy: an emphasis on culturally responsive curriculum, hands-on instruction, social-emotional learning, and student-centered education.

- For garden classes, lead a group of students in exploratory academic activities or garden jobs, such as planting, soil cultivation, compost work, weeding, watering, and other garden maintenance tasks.
- For kitchen classes, lead a group of students in the completion of the day's recipe and related educational activities, with an emphasis on culinary skills such as knife skills, cooking methods, produce identification, and recipe literacy.
- Create a strong classroom culture centered around consistent routines, positive reinforcement, and respect for one another and our educational space.
- Strengthen students' understanding of garden and kitchen connections, as well as how the food we grow affects their health, their community, and their planet.
- Work with school faculty to collaborate on curriculum.
- Write kitchen and garden curricula in collaboration with the Director of Programs and Education and program teaching staff.
- Develop and teach extracurricular programming, including family workshops and after school classes.
- Maintain functional, safe and classroom teaching spaces, including ordering, proper handling, and storing of equipment and ingredients.
- Teach and participate in Professional Development trainings in collaboration with the Director of Programs and Education to help educators throughout the area learn how to bring "edible education" to their own school sites.
- Work on optional projects to support program development as appropriate (ex. curriculum, professional development, garden management and evaluation projects).

#### GARDENING

- Ensure that the garden is properly prepped for classes, and properly cleaned up after classes.
- Handle and store all garden tools and equipment properly.
- Together with the school-based team and the Garden Managers, ensure that the garden is maintained in order to host garden classes as well as production of ample produce for use in the kitchen classroom, school community, and special events. Maintain facilities and equipment in good working order, including: tool shed, greenhouse, irrigation system, and tools.
- Support year-round propagation, soil fertility, composting, crop rotation, garden planning, pruning, irrigation, and pest and disease management.
- Support all garden events and activities, including regular community Farm Stand and food distribution.

#### MANAGEMENT, COMMUNICATION, AND OUTREACH

- Actively participate in a community of learning with ESYNYC colleagues to give and receive feedback, improve curricula and teaching practices, and deepen teaching skills.
- Maintain effective communication with ESYNYC staff, school staff, and the extended community of parents, neighbors and school garden educators.
- Participate in ESYNYC staff meetings, staff development days, and program development meetings.
- Accurately track programming information in online database on a weekly basis.
- Stay informed of school events and activities. Be an active presence in the school community and attend school meetings and events as appropriate.
- Actively support a culture of wellness at the school.
- Welcome visitors to the program and be prepared to be observed while teaching class.
- When necessary, lead garden and kitchen tours and participate in development activities in collaboration with our Development Team.
- Participate in ESYNYC events and community outreach efforts.

## DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Prior teaching experience required.
- Prior gardening or cooking experience preferred.
- Experience working in an urban public school setting preferred.
- Strong commitment to a teaching philosophy that values students, is adaptive to different learning styles, and empowers students to become active participants in their schools and communities.
- A demonstrated commitment to an organizational culture that supports diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Collaborative and committed to working in a small team environment.
- Organized, energetic and flexible.

## PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS

- Ability to work with frequent interruption and to simultaneously supervise a variety of tasks.
- Ability to stand, stoop, reach and bend. Mobility of arms to reach and dexterity of hands to grasp and manipulate large and small objects.
- Ability to stand for long periods.
- Ability to lift, push, and/or pull objects which may be approximately 50 pounds.
- Ability to work with and in the proximity of equipment with moving mechanical parts.
- Ability to work outdoors and tolerate varying weather conditions.
- Willingness to smell, taste and feel, in order to determine quality of raw food products.
- May be required to work around loud noise.
- COVID-19 vaccination encouraged.

Edible Schoolyard NYC is committed to a diverse workplace. People of color, racial and ethnic minorities, women, people with disabilities, veterans, and LGBTQ+ candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. Edible Schoolyard is an equal opportunity employer committed to a policy of equal treatment and opportunity in every aspect of its recruitment and hiring process without regard to age, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, religion, disability, veteran status, gender and/or gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, unemployment status, or any other legally protected basis. Edible Schoolyard NYC provides reasonable accommodation to applicants and employees as required by law. Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodation at any point in the employment process.

## POSITION DETAILS

This is a full time exempt position, based at PS216 in Brooklyn Some weekend and evening work is required. Salary commensurate with experience. Salary range \$40,000 -\$50,000. Generous vacation policy and benefits, including health care coverage.

## TO APPLY

If interested, please send a cover letter and resume as a single document to [jobs@esynyc.org](mailto:jobs@esynyc.org) with your name and the job title, e.g. Jane Smith Garden and Kitchen Teacher. Please include the job title in the subject line.

## HIRING PROCESS AND TIMELINE:

Interviews will be conducted in July. Candidates who advance past the interview round will be invited to teach a demonstration lesson in July or August. The position starts August 23.

Due to the high volume of applications that we receive, only candidates that receive interviews will be contacted.