

Crowden

Music changes everything

Position: Combined 1st/2nd Grade Lead Teacher

Start Date: August, 2026 start; (paid) advanced planning meetings required

Status: Regular, full-time, salaried, exempt 10-month position

THE OPPORTUNITY:

For over 40 years, Crowden has been transforming lives through music and education. As we continue to expand our dynamic learning community to welcome our inaugural 1st and 2nd graders in Fall 2026, we seek an experienced teacher who will help create an innovative combined grade first and second grade program where music and education intertwine to nurture the whole child.

This teacher will join a vibrant community of students, teachers, and musicians who believe in the power of collaborative musical and educational experiences to shape young minds and build inclusive communities. Together, we're expanding Crowden's mission to create transformative learning experiences for our youngest students.

OUR PROGRAM:

Crowden's elementary program embodies our mission by creating a dynamic, inclusive learning environment where collaborative musical and educational experiences are seamlessly integrated throughout the day, promoting:

- Active listening and deep engagement
- Body-mind connection
- Social-emotional development
- Early literacy and numeracy skills
- Creative expression and collaboration
- Community building and empathy

The program is thoughtfully designed with:

- Small class sizes for individualized attention
- Dedicated classroom space
- Rich opportunities for interdisciplinary learning
- Inclusive community of learners and educators

ESSENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

As the teacher, you will:

- Collaborate in the design and implementation of an innovative mixed-grade curriculum that aligns with Crowden's mission of creating collaborative musical and educational experiences
- Create a warm, engaging classroom environment that promotes wonder, exploration, and joy in learning
- Partner with specialist teachers to develop meaningful interdisciplinary experiences
- Document and assess student growth across all developmental domains
- Build strong relationships with families through regular communication
- Actively participate in Crowden's dynamic learning community through faculty collaboration and professional development
- Contribute to creating an inclusive environment that welcomes diverse perspectives and experiences

QUALIFICATIONS:

Required:

- Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, or related field
- Teaching credential or equivalent experience
- Minimum 3 years experience teaching early childhood or elementary grades
- Demonstrated commitment to developmental and project-based learning
- Has experience differentiating within the classroom for a variety of learning styles
- Love for and appreciation of music (musical training not required)
- Strong classroom management and communication skills
- Vision and flexibility needed to help build a new program
- Enthusiasm for working in a music-rich environment
- Commitment to fostering an inclusive learning community

Preferred:

- Master's degree in Education or related field
- Experience in program development or curriculum design
- Experience leading mixed grade/age classrooms
- Background in progressive pedagogy

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE WILL POSSESS:

- Deep understanding of early childhood development
- Commitment to creating an inclusive, equitable learning environment
- Creative approach to curriculum development
- Strong collaborative skills
- Flexibility, adaptability, initiative
- Energy and imagination
- Passion for nurturing lifelong learning
- Dedication to Crowden's vision of transforming lives through music and education

BENEFITS:

- Competitive salary commensurate with experience

- Comprehensive health, dental, and vision insurance
- Retirement plan with employer contribution
- Professional development opportunities
- Supportive and collaborative work environment
- Opportunity to shape an innovative educational program

Salary Information - \$60,000 - \$80,000, depending on experience. Placement on salary scale based on relevant teaching experience. This salary reflects the 25-26 school year scale and will be adjusted accordingly for the 26-27 school year.

TO APPLY:

Join us in transforming lives through music and education! Please submit:

1. Cover letter describing your teaching philosophy and vision for this role
2. Current resume
3. Three professional references, including at least one supervisor
4. Statement about your approach to creating differentiated, collaborative learning experiences that build inclusive communities

Send applications to: isleadteacher2026@crowden.org. No phone calls, please.

Crowden Music Center, located just two blocks from North Berkeley BART, is an Equal Opportunity Employer and welcomes candidates who contribute to our diverse community.