

**LAURA JEFFREY ACADEMY** is the first STEM-focused urban middle school in MN with a comprehensive liberal arts, girl-focused curriculum. Our purpose is to provide a unique and stimulating education environment where students are free – to explore their potential, discover their brilliance and develop their intellect. We are looking for educators committed to social justice and equity in learning for all students. If you are an educator who thinks out of the box, loves to collaborate with others, we would love to hear from you. Teachers of color are encouraged to apply. We are committed to serving a diverse population of students and families.

**Job Title:  School Social Worker (.5 FTE)**

**Job Description:**  Social worker will promote and enhance the overall academic mission by providing services that strengthen home/school/community partnerships and reduce barriers to learning.  The social worker will work to enhance emotional and social development of students while understanding the influences of family, community, socioeconomics and cultural differences on student success.  The social worker will implement effective proactive and intervention strategies and work as part of the school team member to enhance effective learning.

**Job Responsibilities:**

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment:  ensure whole child development.

* Ensure compliance with special education due process including developing and implementing Individualized Education Programs in collaboration with families, students and teachers.  Support initial evaluations/re-evaluations and all due process requirements.
* Teach social/emotional skills/sensory regulation/coping and other cognitive skills to students utilizing best practice and evidenced based strategies and curriculum.  Develop/facilitate skills training plans as needed for CTSS.
* Regularly assess and evaluate learning based on best practice. Measure and report on student progress, and reinforce students' outstanding contributions and performance.
* Participate in team meetings, committee meetings and professional development with general and special education staff.
* Maintain various required records/data according to established policies and procedures.
* Administrative designee for IEP meetings as requested.
* Authority in charge if other administrators are out of the building*.*

Family/Student Relationships: develop family school partnerships.

* Develop regular, positive and culturally responsive communication with families, caregivers and students to ensure clear understanding of student strengths, challenges, goals, progress and potential.
* Support other staff in developing regular, positive, culturally responsive communication with families.
* Meet as needed with all students/families around emotional/mental health needs and develop system of referrals for students in need of outside services.
* Collaborate with outside community support staff in supporting student’s educational *success.*

Behavioral Support: promote responsible independence for all students.

* Support all students around behavioral needs, support cultural liaison/administration staff in intervening around behavioral issues, collecting student statements and supporting restorative practices.
* Support the development and implementation of effective behavioral plans/strategies for students.
* Support school climate initiatives, emphasizing student resiliency, strengths, responsibility and accountability, including student supervision and discipline.
* Support teachers in utilizing culturally competent strategies for classroom management and successes.
* Support families in developing relationships with school staff and collaborating with families around behavioral needs at school.
* Assist general education staff in developing and implementing interventions for students who are not meeting grade level expectations in academic, social or behavioral areas.

LJA Community Climate: support community wide prevention of over representation of students of color in Special Education and a focus on moving students into General Education.

* Model and support LJA’s principles and theoretical framework with staff, students, and families.
* Model and support a growth mindset with students’, staff, and families.
* Support LJA’s Restorative Justice initiative.
* Support professional development and training around mental health andsocial/emotional skill development.
* Collaborate with staff to develop culturally competent strategies for working with diverse classrooms (i.e. academics, race, ethnicity, socio economics, familial expectations).
* Participate in all aspects of the school community including several evening community events as assigned.

Leadership: integral part of the LJA leadership team supporting long-term vision, strategic initiatives and daily implementation of goals.

* Managing Interaction - Demonstrate effective use of group processes and facilitator skills. Identifies self as a team leader; intervenes, negotiates, resolves conflict as needed; facilitates healthy communication; creates a cooperative atmosphere.
* Responsiveness - Understands the diversity among different groups and modifies interaction style to fit the situation; understands how one’s own behavior may affect others; adjusts strategies when ineffective; exhibits appropriate interaction skills; and deals effectively with emotional issues.

Qualifications

* LICSW license or in process of obtaining LICSW license
* MN Department of ED school social worker license
* Culturally competent communicator, education and youth advocate
* Understanding of adolescent development
* Knowledge of and commitment to gender equity and basic feminist theory/pedagogy
* Passion working with 5-8th grade girls
* Experience working with urban youth and families
* Inherent belief in the ability of all students to learn and achieve success
* Strategic and systemic thinker
* Ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing with a variety of constituencies
* Committed to creating a culture of inquiry and student success
* Committed to ongoing professional and personal development
* Social skills teaching experience

2017-18 School Year begins on August 16, 2017 and ends on June 29, 2018. Staff orientation and professional development begins July 31, 2017.

To Apply:  Email cover letter and resume to hr@laurajeffrey [academy.org](http://academy.org/) or fax to [651-414-6006](tel:651-414-6006).