

# Teaching is a Labor of Love

“When love and skill mingle, expect a masterpiece.”

(John Ruskin)

Rivendell School is indeed a unique place to learn and teach. And so, it's not a school where everyone will find a rewarding and productive fit for their teaching career. As we consider prospective teachers, and as they consider us, it is important to move *through* concerns regarding a teacher's *experience*. (what have you done?) and *philosophy* (what do you believe?) and further into the heart of the matter, *passion* (what do you love?). For, if nothing else, teaching is a labor of love....

## 1. A Love for Children

- enjoy their presence, their stage of development, their being young
- motivated to see them grow in character, integrity, and self-control
- happy to see them curious, stimulated, engaged, full of life
- a talent scout in the classroom, discovering & nurturing each child's gifts
- desire to understand how a child's mind and heart work
- have a burden for the youth culture in our society
- honor them as fellow people, communicate with them and listen to them
- care about their family dynamics and home life

## 2. A Love of Learning

- intellectual curiosity; an inquiring mind
- humble readiness to be changed and challenged by studies and work
- living example of “a practitioner of the art of learning” for the students
- love to integrate, make connections; is interdisciplinary; a generalist
- seeking a truth-centered life in the marketplace of ideas
- a growing Christ-centered faith expressed in practical, thoughtful terms
- self-starter; independent and relatively autonomous

## 3. A Love of Community

- willing to share power and delegate
- cooperative with colleagues; team player; loves collegiality, collaboration
- sense of school ownership and responsibility
- flexible & patient with rough-and-rumble of close proximity; informality
- satisfied with noble calling in a smallish, unglamorous setting
- a pioneer who likes being on the cutting & creative edge in team context
- high value on personal/professional relationships