

The Lab - Technology Mentor

To apply, contact Mary Tinucci at mary.tinucci@spps.org - (651) 744-1005

Description: Develop and help lead creative projects aimed at bolstering urban youth's computer literacy skills. As a volunteer with The Lab, you will partner with staff at one of eleven school sites within the St. Paul Public Schools, facilitating creative, therapeutic and experiential learning opportunities for at-risk youth. As a technology mentor, you can develop creative projects tailored to your own technological knowledge, and connect with youth in a number of ways: mentoring, teaching and leading small groups.

Population: The Lab serves junior and senior high school students who struggle with behavioral issues. They have the educational label of Emotional Behavioral Disorder (EBD), and do not perform to their full potential in the "mainstream" public school classroom setting. These students attend school in small, self-contained programs. These programs offer learning environments with an emphasis on behavior management and the development of social and emotional health skills. The students in these programs have limited access to technology and have little to no experience with navigating the internet, using email, word processing, etc.

Qualifications:

- Interest and experience in working with computers (Remember: you need not be a "techie")
- Proficiency in Macintosh OSX (including iLife package) is a plus. Students will be recording and editing spoken word poetry, making beats with GarageBand, producing podcasts, uploading files onto The Lab's website, developing their internet literacy and typing ability.
- Interest in working with urban at-risk youth
- Patience for working with a challenging population
- Excellent leadership and people skills, ability to work as part of a team
- Strong verbal communication skills and frequent access to email

Responsibilities:

- Fill out Volunteer Application
- Schedule interview with program assistant
- Complete a Minnesota state background check (cost: \$12.50)
- Learn about the mission, values and vision of The Lab, by attending Volunteer Orientation and Training (dates flexible), and reading appropriate materials
- Show up on time for classroom sessions
- Communicate with classroom staff (social worker, members of The Lab team) to create and implement projects and curriculum
- Lead special projects and/or work one-on-one with students
- Be available for monthly volunteer check-ins
- Fill out occasional forms, documenting your volunteer experience

Time Commitment: Currently, we are searching for both short-term (one to two sessions) and ongoing volunteers (three sessions plus). After training, volunteers will spend one to three hours in a classroom setting per week, during school hours. Please specify your desired time commitment on your application.

Training and Supervision:

- During Volunteer Orientation, you will learn about The Lab, meet staff, formulate your project curriculum plan with site staff and have the opportunity to ask plenty of questions!
- The staff of The Lab will be at your assistance at all times—helping with the formation of your project, working with you in the classroom, and providing guidance.
- Technology mentors will be supported and supervised by Program Assistant.

Benefits: Make a difference with at-risk youth; work in a creative, collaborative environment; and gain teaching experience!