

PLACE BASED
PROJECT
BASED
COMMUNITY
AS CAMPUS
SCHOOL

JOIN OUR
COOPERATIVE
COMMUNITY
IN
MELBOURNE,
FL



VERDI ECOSCHOOL

— EST. 2016 —



HEAD OF SCHOOL POSITION

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL FAMILY

Everyone is different, yet similar here. Everyone here has a different personality and way of thinking, but they all still have a common thread: Everyone, no matter how different, is free to be themselves. Everyone is searching for a place where they belong. They're searching for a community and we're all fighting to keep our community strong through thick and thin. No matter how different we seem, we still have something in common that we share."

- Damian Perez, 8th Grade

At Verdi EcoSchool, we have made an intentional commitment to embrace cooperative governance. For us this means that every partner in our school community becomes part of a greater vision to build a responsive School Family.

We asked our School Family who they would like to see join our special community and this is what they shared:



GROWTH

I would like to see someone who can continue the school's visions of an urban farm garden by promoting learning through the growing and marketing process, increasing sustainability, and possibly providing food to those in need in the EGAD area. Keeping a foundation of Conscious Discipline, community involvement, and Project Based Learning are also important.

- A PARENT



EMPATHY

Happy teachers make happy students and families, and the most important factor in teacher job satisfaction tends to be the relationship between administrators and teachers. I know [current school leadership] cares about me as an employee and as a person. What if this new hire doesn't? I would like the new Head of School to have a clear, intentional plan in place for connecting with staff and building trust.

- AN EDUCATOR



PARTNER

Someone who cares what people (students) think and who thinks of students more as individuals than a collective.

- A STUDENT



LEADER

Someone who believes in the mission of the school, has strong organizational skills and is an analytical thinker and multitasker. Someone with great communication skills - approachable but assertive and willing to listen but not afraid to say no. Someone who is calm and adaptable - keeping all parties involved and connected to EcoSchool's values.

- A BOARD MEMBER

WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE?

Mission: Empowering young people to build healthy communities.



The Verdi EcoSchool is a not for profit, place and project based urban farm school in Melbourne, Florida and the first school of its kind in the southeastern United States. Founded as a 501c3 not for profit in 2016, EcoSchool is leading a movement of transformative change on the Space Coast.

Nestled on the banks of the Indian River Lagoon, the Verdi EcoSchool uses the community as its campus to create an engaging and immersive environment for children where real-life learning and hands-on experiences shape tomorrow's innovators.

Students develop an awareness of their unique place and learn that school doesn't just happen at a desk, in a classroom or within four walls.

As a micro-school, EcoSchool has built a financially sustainable model which utilizes meaningful partnerships with prominent

organizations like the Brevard Cultural Alliance, Florida Institute of Technology and the Brevard Zoo to share facilities and educational resources in order to amplify our impact while extending our roots deep into the community.

EcoSchool is committed to expanding access, equality, equity, and inclusion within our school community with more than 50% of our current school population receiving state sponsored scholarships for families of financial need and students with learning differences and disabilities.

EXPLORING THE EAU GALLIE ARTS DISTRICT

From delicious food to historic properties and artisan markets, meet EGAD!



The Eau Gallie Arts District is nestled alongside the Indian River Lagoon - one of the most biodiverse estuaries in the world.

Home to the Foosner Art Museum, The Historic Rosseter House Museum and Gardens and over 30 outdoor murals, the Eau Gallie Arts District (EGAD) is one of the most up and coming areas in all of Brevard County. Creative shops and restaurants rub shoulders with art galleries, craft bars and breweries. Outside of the Eau Gallie Library is Pineapple Park and a path that takes you out onto the Eau Gallie Pier where you can see pods of dolphins cavorting in the waters of the lagoon. The diverse community is home to young professionals, families as well as retirees and is only 5 minutes away from the sandy beaches of the Space Coast.

EGAD AT A GLANCE:

AVERAGE HOME PRICE

\$330,000 - with both million dollar riverfront estates and economically priced homes within walking distance.

RECREATION

You will often see groups running the Eau Gallie Causeway from EGAD to the beachside, Kayaking, paddleboarding, yoga and mural walks are all highlights.

RESTAURANTS/NIGHTLIFE

Intracoastal Brewery, Salty Fox, The Cottage, FM Pizza, Traditionals, The Burger Inn and Anaya Coffee are local favorites.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

OVERVIEW



IDEAL EXPERIENCE:

- Bachelor's Degree required. Master's Degree in a related field is preferred.
- 3+ years of experience as a classroom teacher, ideally in a K-12 school setting.
- Demonstrated history of effectiveness in leadership of a private, public or charter school.
- Demonstrated acumen for mentoring and guiding the development and growth of an education team.
- Proven record of quickly assimilating into new environments, identifying areas for improvement and affecting change, while cultivating positive relationships.

Verdi EcoSchool's Board of Directors, together with the Head of School and other members of school leadership, are responsible for preserving and achieving the vision and mission of Verdi EcoSchool and stewarding the growth and advancement of the only place and project based urban farm school in the southeastern United States. As Lead Educator and Administrator of the school, the Head of School is responsible for the daily life and operations of the school, for implementing the vision and mission of Verdi EcoSchool and for cultivating the positive and warm culture of the School Family. The Head of School builds, trains and leads a highly qualified faculty and staff who together serve the collective good of the School Family, and attend to the intellectual, emotional, social, and physical growth of each child.

Administratively, the Head of School supervises the effective development of Verdi EcoSchool's place and project based educational program, increases enrollment and retention, manages finances, and provides input to the Board of Directors on these initiatives. The Head of School is almost always present and visible on the school campus during regular school hours, overseeing day-to-day operations, and helping to support students, staff, families and our greater school community. The Head of School will also be an asset to the Board and other members of school leadership as a resource and strategic visionary, with a non-voting seat on the Board. The Head of School is a full-time employee of the Verdi EcoSchool.

SKILLS AND QUALITIES

- As a life-long learner, possesses a growth mindset and eagerness to explore new ideas and approaches.
- Demonstrates a dedication to the cultivation of children’s intellectual, social, physical, and emotional development.
- Demonstrates an ability to effectively instruct, inspire and assess children in a variety of areas (academic, intellectual, social, physical, etc.) through creative, purposeful, and age-appropriate methods.
- Has a servant leadership management style. Leads with transparency and is receptive to an appropriate level of accountability. Welcomes and acts upon constructive feedback.
- Maintains high standards of excellence in all work and takes responsibility for producing positive outcomes.
- Possesses strong and compelling written and verbal communication skills. Offers grace to oneself and others while also energizing and inspiring staff and School Family to positive ends.
- Possesses strong administrative and organizational skills and demonstrates efficacy with managing multiple tasks and parties through effective use of time and resources.
- Effectively collaborates with parent committees, Director of Education on shared initiatives.

OVERVIEW OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- As the Lead Educator and Administrator of the school, supports teachers, staff, parents and students in understanding and implementing Verdi Ecoschool’s core values, mission, vision and model of education in the classroom and in all activities that involve the Verdi EcoSchool community.
- Stewards Verdi EcoSchool’s model, vision, mission, and advancement.
- Attends to the intellectual, social, emotional and physical growth of each child and partners with staff and each child’s family/caregivers in these efforts.
- Builds and trains a highly qualified and effective faculty and staff.
- Actively manages Verdi EcoSchool’s educational program, operating finances, facility, administrative staff and duties.
- Oversees day-to-day operations, mitigates any conflict within the school community while proactively providing loving support to all members of the School Family.
- Works collaboratively with Board of Directors and any committees to reach shared goals and purpose.
- Supports Board initiatives in special projects and strategic initiatives.

[SEE SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES HERE](#)

To apply for the Head of School position please complete an application at verdiecoschool.org/workwithus or email info@verdiecoschool.org with inquiries.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

BUILDING THE SCHOOL FAMILY AND RESTORING THE COMMUNITY AS TEACHER



Verdi EcoSchool stands at the edge of an incredible precipice - the life changing moment when a young idea takes flight and becomes a sustainable catalyst for change.

The vision of EcoSchool was a relatively simple one: to create a school community where students and families could feel happy, supported and excited about learning. It turns out that this idea isn't so simple! We laugh now when we consider our naïveté.

Since then we have committed to learning, together, what it means to become a School Family and working cooperatively to create a vision of education that is both personal and relevant to our community and the unique challenges that we face.

With the continued support of both local and national philanthropic consortiums like the Drexel Fund, Verdi EcoSchool is growing and exploring exciting new partnerships. We are ready to expand our family to include an individual who believes that re-envisioning educational opportunities for students must meaningfully include the community in which each child grows. The community as campus and as a vital teacher - sharing knowledge of our collective history, present and as a window into what our future can hold.

Thank you for taking this short journey to get to know us better! We are looking forward to meeting you and beginning a new, shared journey together!

Sincerely,

Ayana Verdi

