

*Dear Teacher Candidate,*

*Thank you for your interest in employment at Valley Charter Elementary School. Before we review your cover letter and resume, please take some time to answer the following questions (maximum one page for each question).*

*We are seeking highly motivated, creative, and energetic teachers who believe in teaching the whole child. We provide a constructivist learning environment that nurtures, challenges, and values every member of the community.*

*When submitting your answers, please name the file: **yournamevcscandidate.doc** (example: jsmithvcscandidate.doc).*

*Sincerely,*

*Leslie Lainer, Principal  
employment@valleycharterschool.org*

**Question 1:** Our Culture at VCS is to view children as naturally curious and motivated learners who integrate and categorize experiences as they add to their understanding of the world around them. Students are motivated by their interests, and through developmentally appropriate practices, are guided in their ability to construct conceptual understandings from meaningful experiences. Through the use of our thematic and integrated curriculum, our teachers facilitate these experiences for their students, using current research and materials to guide their practice. This type of curriculum builds student interest and enthusiasm. That being said, our goal is to build leaders who will liberate, inspire and demand others to build on this Culture and not be afraid to challenge the status quo while doing so. These are the qualities we look for in those we bring into our school. Please provide specific examples of how you have demonstrated these qualities in your prior experience.

**Question 2:** Our Mission at VCS is to enable students to become lifelong learners, informed and responsible citizens, competent and successful members of the workforce, and thinking, fulfilled, caring individuals with sensitivity to, and understanding of, the diverse multicultural society in which we live. Beyond your qualifications for this position, how will you help to fulfill our Mission at VCS?

**Question 3:** We make it a Mission at VCS to discover and unleash the hidden potential in children. We make every effort to encourage creative adventure and freedom of thought, in order to realize each child's potential. Beyond your qualifications for this position, how will you contribute to this Mission?

**Question 4:** Describe your philosophy or approach to teaching reading, writing, and mathematics to children.

**Question 5:** We all have "Wow" moments. When we do or say something so impressive and awe-inspiring we can't help but pat ourselves on the back! When we pour blood, sweat and tears into a project, and realize we went far beyond the status quo. Tell us about your proudest "Wow" moment.

**Question 6:** There are so many charter schools in Los Angeles. Why, specifically, do you want to work at Valley Charter School?

**Question 7:** Tell us something interesting, odd or just plain unique about yourself. We're not looking for a Nobel Peace Prize – just something that makes your friends laugh, and something that we'll always remember!