

March 15, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to write this letter of recommendation on the behalf of Justine Hynes. I was Justine's supervising teacher during her practicum teaching experience during the Fall and Winter of 2010. Justine completed a work sample in my fourth grade class in the area of science, focused around food webs, food chains and habitats.

During Justine's student teaching experience, she was highly motivated to learn different ways of teaching, adapting her lessons to the learners in the classroom and teach the students in a way that was most meaningful to them. All of her lessons were carefully planned and thought out with the district and state science standards guiding her way. She consistently put in extra time and effort to adapt her teaching and monitor the progress of the students' learning. Each day and lesson was an opportunity clearly taken by Justine to teach the standards in order to positively affect and teach every student. She asked for feedback often and accepted constructive criticism with the maturity of a master teacher. Her progress throughout the weeks of her practicum was that of an individual who was internally motivated to improve her teaching for the betterment of the students.

Justine has several strengths that I could point out, but a main strength in particular is her ability to motivate the students. She always seemed sincerely interested in the progress of her students. She has the ability to present the material in a new and meaningful way to engage them in learning. Students worked individually, and in groups to create "habitats" within the classroom. Each student was assigned an animal within the habitat and the food web associated within the unit. This increased the interest of the students, while increasing their learning at the same time. Justine consistently used her creativity to create lessons that allowed for enrichment, opportunity for interventions and also provided an environment that was conducive to learning. Her creativity did not stop at the lessons providing information, but also branched into a final project pod cast created by the students to be viewed on a classroom blog for parents to enjoy.

Justine consistently displays the qualities and attributes that make a successful teacher. She is dependable, sincere, motivated and focused on the needs of her students. She works well with colleagues and administration and is willing to learn from those around her. Any school district that offers Justine Hynes a teaching position would be adding a valuable asset to their staff. I highly recommend her for a teaching position.

Respectfully,

Marissa Hein
Fourth Grade Teacher
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