



University Elementary School

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To whom it may concern:

The school that hires Ms. Patti Walsh as a member of their staff will be a truly fortunate school. Ms. Walsh is an extremely competent and energetic woman who is a capable classroom manager, adds a technology and creativity easily to her lesson plans, and is able to address a wide variety of student needs.

Ms. Walsh was a student teacher in my 5th grade class of 25 students at University Elementary School in Bloomington, Indiana in the fall of 2011. The class presented a wide variety of learning abilities, including gifted and new English learners, as well as everyone in between. In addition, there is an autistic student who has very different needs than most in the mainstream classroom. From the very start, she was able to manage this classroom with firmness and caring. Students readily bonded with her, yet she was professional in her expectations for all students to be on task at all times. When students made poor choices she quickly responded with instructions for suitable behavior and applied classroom rules to all equally. Ms. Walsh dealt well particularly with the organization and presentation of lessons. She set up organized rubrics and assignments for student work, graded and returned papers promptly to students with appropriate feedback, and entered the grading into the grade book in a skilled and efficient manner.

Although Ms. Walsh was competent in all areas, her expertise showed in mathematics when she taught 7th grade math to a class of 26 mostly gifted and high ability 5th and 6th graders at University School. She incorporates visual lessons as well as paper and pencil. One of the more memorable was a student box-and-whisker plot to explain the graph.

Ms. Walsh showed professionalism in all areas. She easily got along with all staff members, attended faculty meetings, parent conferences, and sought out other teachers to assist in lesson planning ideas. I would recommend Ms. Walsh highly. Should you need further information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Donna Bernens-Kinhead

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