



Todd Bidlack
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Reference Letter for Elliott Kern

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Elliott Kern for a teaching position in your district. Elliott has shown great enthusiasm, creativity, passion, and dedication to the teaching profession during his various guest teacher assignments at Delta Kelly Elementary during the 2013-2014 school year. I write this letter to you with much appreciation for Elliott's work ethic, strong rapport with students and parents, ability to effectively design instruction, and his collaborative spirit.

Quickly recognizing his exceptional skills as an educator, we utilized Elliott's services as frequently as possible. The two most significant roles Elliott filled this year were as a long-term guest K-5 information literacy specialist and as a long-term kindergarten guest teacher. In addition, he has exhibited a deep sense of caring about the progress of each individual student. This unique experience has provided him the opportunity to teach at all elementary grade levels including students with significant cognitive impairments.

Elliott is a teacher who brings excitement and challenge to each lesson. He extensively plans and implements lessons that meet the needs of all students with various learning styles. Elliott is conscientious about collaborating with colleagues, using outside resources, and implementing a variety of hands-on activities. He differentiates where appropriate to engage all students in significant learning. As a result of his success in teaching concepts in meaningful and exciting ways, utilizing workshop model practices, developing a Culture of Thinking influence by Harvard University, his overall student achievement and growth was outstanding.

I don't think I can recall a situation where a long-term guest teacher has formed collaborative bonds with the staff in the same manner as Elliott. The teachers at Delta Kelly have high regard for him. Elliott attended and participated in all professional development and staff meetings. Elliott maintained effective classroom management strategies to ensure that instructional time was effectively used and that all students were actively engaged in their own learning. Frequently his lessons included cooperative group investigations, which featured teamwork, dialogue, and sharing. He used positive reinforcement to build on the individual strengths of students. Prompt feedback and encouragement was given to all students. One of Elliott's important assets is his patient and calm ability to counsel students and lead them to aspire to positive, respectful behaviors.

You will be very pleased with Elliott's continued emphasis on excellence. He is eager to grow and try new ideas to make learning meaningful and exciting to his students. Elliott is intelligent, organized, skillful in implementing technology in his teaching, hard-working, and he works well with colleagues. Elliott pays great attention to detail and has high expectations for student achievement.

Elliott Kern is the real deal and I strongly recommend that you hire him to teach at your school. He is and will continue to be a teacher of the highest caliber. Please feel free to contact me at 810.701.1200 to discuss Elliott's qualifications in further detail.

Sincerely,

Todd Bidlack