

Mrs. Amy Saunders
Journalism Honors, English I Honors, and English I
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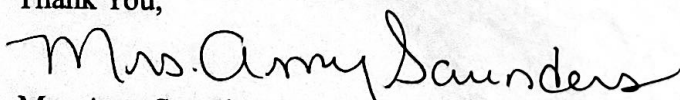
To Whom It May Concern,

I have been a teaching professional for fifteen years, and in that time I had only had one student teacher that I shared with a coworker. I will admit that the experience was not a positive one, so for years I would turn down having a student teacher when offered. When I received a phone call from my principal this past summer offering me the opportunity to have a student teacher, I decided to take a chance and say yes, a decision that led to instant anxiety and regret. I was worried that my student teacher would be disorganized, or would not have good classroom management skills, and eventually I would be left trying to rebuild my classroom for the rest of the school year. On the second day of school when I met my student teacher, Morgan Mickavicz, for the first time, I can confidently say my fears were assuaged and that I made an excellent decision in accepting this opportunity.

From the first time we met, I observed that Morgan was very easy to talk to, an attentive listener, and was ready to learn what expectations I had for her in the classroom. She learned the names of the students very quickly, and by the second week of the school year had started teaching the Journalism Honors course, a class that was filled with senior students. Morgan did an excellent job establishing a room where students felt respected and their opinions were listened to, and I felt she was very fair in her grading and expectations. She started to see early on the types of issues our students were dealing with outside of the classroom, and she was always ready to listen and help if she could.

When Morgan began teaching the English I Academic students, her classroom management skills came into play. She had to make seat changes, address outbursts and unnecessary comments, and show the students that she really was the teacher in the classroom. Morgan has handled the challenges that some of these students have presented with a calm nature and even the most difficult students seem to be willing to do work for her. Observing Morgan in all of the varied classroom settings has shown me many of her strengths, particularly her use of technology when teaching, strong lesson plans that are designed to reach all students, and flexibility when dealing with the unexpected scheduling changes that can happen in a high school setting. Morgan is very timely when it comes to returning graded work, and she does an excellent job with our Skyward system updating the Gradebook and posting messages to students and parents. She has handled herself well in conferences and I have seen her grow with such confidence in running her classroom. I cannot express how proud I am of Morgan and how fortunate I am to have been selected as her cooperating teacher. Morgan Mickavicz would be an asset to any school district and an excellent addition to the teaching profession.

Thank You,


Mrs. Amy Saunders