



October 2, 2009

It is a pleasure to write about such a dynamic, young teacher. I observed Kyla Hamm during last year, school year 0809, her first as a full time teacher. I was continually impressed by her scope of knowledge, and her assurance in the classroom. I have been teaching for 30 years. It is rare to see a first-year teacher with as much clear control of topic, and instinctively appropriate classroom management techniques. That is not to imply Kyla did not know what she was doing or why. Each time she needed to deal with students, she clearly explained to me what happened, how she dealt with the incident, and why. It is important to understand even the most skilled teachers are challenged by the students at Tarsus. Although they are a challenge, they can be won over, and that is exactly what Kyla did.

Kyla Hamm walked into a class schedule with little to no available curriculum, and minimal supplies. She used her experiences to devise lessons and units that challenged, and in many cases delighted the students. For example, she used the text the ninth grade was reading to create scenes and dramatic situations for the students who were then to create and present the scenes. This combined the information about theater she was teaching with the literary study they were doing in their English class. She also worked with the Prep teachers and Coordinator to create a Spoken Arts curriculum being followed in this 0910 school year. The Coordinator commented to me, "Kyla was brilliant in pulling the parts of the curriculum together to create Spoken Arts."

Not only was Kyla effective in the classroom, and a valuable and contributing member of the English department, she also took on the duties of Dorm parent for our boarding students. Again, it is rare in one so young to be as reasonable, and appropriate with students in a living situation. She did not allow any situations from the dorm influence her professionalism in the classroom. She also kept in contact with the teachers of the dorm students, monitoring their academics. When I reported a concern I had about a student in my class, she worked with that student to improve his study habits. We also collaborated to work with a student whose behavior was causing problems.

Kyla Hamm is an excellent teacher. I will be sad to see her go, but understand it is necessary for her professional growth. The school she chooses will gain a great asset to its staff, and its larger community.

Sincerely,

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October 7, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Ms. Kyla Hamm whom I've worked with since August 2008. Ms. Hamm is an energetic, creative, and hardworking team player. During her first year of teaching, Ms. Hamm taught high school English and Drama. Midway through the year, the school desperately needed a grade eight English teacher. When asked to teach these classes, Kyla volunteered enthusiastically.

Picking up where the previous teacher left off, Kyla was able to quickly determine what the grade eight students had learned and immediately began creating units of study covering the skills and concepts that they had not yet been taught. She effectively devised daily lesson plans which culminated in the unit's targeted skills and understandings. Our grade 8 students experienced a seamless transition and tremendously satisfying completion of the year because of Kyla's energy and professionalism. Those students and the SEV administration will always be grateful to Kyla for helping in this emergency situation.

Throughout the time that I have known and worked with Kyla, I've been tremendously impressed with her relationship with students. She truly cares about each student learning to the best of his or her ability. She modifies her lessons as to support lower-skilled students while at the same time challenge the upper-level students. Every student in her class experiences a sense of success because of her caring and flexibility. I believe Ms. Hamm's consideration for her students creates an extraordinarily well-managed classroom. For a first year teacher, she showed herself to be an expert classroom manager especially in light of the rough circumstances of being this group of students' third teacher of the year.

Moving on is the nature of international education and, therefore, I completely understand Ms. Hamm's desire to seek employment at another school. Again, I enthusiastically recommend Kyla for any teaching position. Children and society have and will continue to reap benefits from the tremendous good, which she does for education. I will miss Ms. Hamm and wish her a long and satisfying career.

Truly,

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