

June 2015

To whom it may concern,

Melissa Johnson is going to be a great music teacher. She has finished her student teaching with me in elementary music this past May of 2015 and I was happy to be her cooperating teacher. She demonstrated strengths in her interpersonal skills with students and staff, her excellent organization, and her ability to apply new learning into her teaching right away.

Starting with the first day Melissa interviewed with me and sat in on a few classes she easily engaged with students. She was attentive and ready to help out and join in with the activities. As she planned and taught in the classroom she was able to develop that same individual engagement to a larger group setting making her increasingly effective at holding attention and keeping an appropriate pace during the lesson. Many teachers commented weekly on how good she was at engaging students at the door and involving them in music as soon as they walked into the music room.

Melissa came prepared and organized. She had thought through her time with me and had a binder with blank planning guides for the entire 8 weeks. She was able to put her hands on plans and resources quickly and had technology set and ready to go before class each day. She was well prepared each time she taught; The songs were well learned and the teaching procedures planned well. When these plans didn't work, Melissa was making notes and adjusting those plans in her binder for the next time. And when the next time came she was successful!

Melissa came to me ready for the challenge that student teaching is. She was open to critical comments and appreciated praise. Her confidence allowed her to engage in meaningful discussions regarding behavior management, teaching technique and curriculum development. As she taught she was able to develop those activity structures that hold a lesson together. She adjusted her directions to be clear, concise and direct. She effectively instituted expectations and consequences followed through when needed. Over the course of a year and beyond, these management skills will make each music class hers allowing her to foster much musical growth.

I have no doubt that Melissa will be successful. She will fit in with staff and students where ever she lands. She will bring the organization do her job with effectiveness and consistency and her students will love to come and learn to make music. I would highly recommend giving Melissa the opportunity to further develop and spread her wings as a music teacher in your district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. O. Conniff', written in a cursive style.

Peter Conniff

Elementary music teacher

Kentwood Public Schools