

To Whom it May Concern:

9/22/14

I am writing this letter to support Jessica Benz in her application for this position. I have known Jessica professionally for twelve years. We taught together at Antelope Meadows for several years, and have continued our relationship after both moving on to other positions. Jessica is a colleague you can count on to work hard, and do what is best for kids.

One of Jessica's best qualities is that she is a team player. She has always been interested in working with other educators so that the students have the best educational experience possible. She is someone I can go to for advice on supporting struggling students, and she is also willing to seek out others to ask for their help. She would be an asset to any team.

Jessica has held many different positions in education throughout her career, and in each of those, she has been able to reach out to the existing community of educators and find her place in the system. She goes about this process by working to understand the current culture and figuring out where her skills would be most useful.

Another trait Jessica holds is an interest in how technology engages students. We have had several conversations over the years about the best way to have students engaged in creating, collaborating, and working on specific skills through the use of technology. Jessica has built her own website, created a Symbaloo bookmarking page for her students to access, and has used apps like iMovie in classroom settings. She is also knowledgeable about what social media applications students are using today and is able to easily converse with them about these tools.

Jessica is very organized and thoughtful in her planning process. I have seen this skill be a benefit to others when she delivers mini staff development sessions to grade level teams, and when she shares resources with teachers. She is able to communicate in a down-to-earth, practical way that is also research-based and directly applicable to the classroom.

It is with no hesitation that I recommend Jessica Benz for any position that involves working with both teachers and students.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.



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