



Blackduck Public Schools
www.blackduck.k12.mn.us
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Sheena Reese
17640 Lookout Tower Road NE
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April 14, 2019

To whom it may concern,

My name is Sheena Reese and I am writing on behalf of Sarah Armstrong. I am an elementary teacher at Blackduck Public Schools. I have only worked with Sarah for a few short months. Normally I would not write a letter of recommendation for someone I've only worked with for such a short time. However, this is a very special case! Sarah is unlike any other employee I've ever met over my 12 years of teaching. She was hired into a very difficult position that needed a lot of work! Filling the position of "American Indian Education home/school Liaison" and "Title VI/JOM Coordinator" is not easy. However, within hours, the teaching staff knew we had struck gold with the hiring of Mrs. Armstrong to work with our kids and organize the program.

Sarah was making positive changes on day one! In her short time with us, she has the program more organized and successful than it has ever been since I have been a teacher at the school. Within one week, she had developed a Google Doc that was able to serve as a route of communication between Sarah, administrations, teachers, and specialists that all worked with her students. She gathered input from teachers, parents, and counselors on what would be beneficial to her students. Sarah started writing a newsletter to send home with families right away. Monthly meetings that were not happening, started to happen.

Perhaps the most amazing thing she has done in such a short time, is start an after school tutoring program for American Indian students. Most people coming into this position would wait until the next school year to start something that big. Not Sarah! She saw a need, and took action! That pretty much sums up Sarah. If I had to describe Sarah in three words, I would say she is productive, transparent, and approachable. On top of all that, Sarah is a kind and compassionate human being that cares about how her actions can change lives for the better. I am very sad to see her go, but I can just imagine how happy the staff will be that decides to hire this magnificent woman.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Sheena Reese
Elementary Teacher
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BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL

Embracing Diversity, Striving for Excellence

November 15, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I writing this letter to express my strong support for Sarah Sanchez Armstrong to become a vibrant member of your learning community. She will have an immediate positive impact in the classroom and on the overall school environment.

In my previous role as Vice Principal, I was part of the hiring committee that interviewed Sarah and met her in person at the University of Northern Iowa International Teacher Recruitment Fair. Sarah is a late transitioner to the world of education, and the confidence and professionalism she gained from her previous professional life was apparent during our interview.

She struck me right away as a teacher -- committed to professionalism and truly introducing the world of Spanish language and culture to her students. Her classroom is one that is active with many authentic learning activities and assessments. She is a flexible team player -- initial hired as a high school and middle school teacher, we had to switch her duties to include elementary teaching due to enrollment issues on our end. She embraced the new challenge without missing a beat.

Her second year at BFS was one where she was able to teach at the advanced level as our first AP Spanish teacher. As a result of her full experience of K-12, she was instrumental in creating a comprehensive, articulated K-12 Spanish language curriculum for Busan Foreign School -- our very first.

Her professionalism extends to outside the classroom as well. She has presented at the 2017 Korean Council of Overseas Schools (KORCOS) regarding the importance of portfolio assessments in language learning. She was also head of our Parent Teacher Support Organization (PTSO) as well as a committee leader for our data collection subcommittee for accreditation through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

If you are seeking someone who will bring the joy of language learning to the classroom as well as an immediate positive impact on your school climate, then I give my strongest recommendation to have Sarah Sanchez join your school. You won't go wrong.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information regarding Sarah.

Regards,

Glenn M. Saunders
Director of Admissions (former Vice Principal)



BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL

Embracing Diversity, Striving for Excellence

June 4th, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the pleasure of supervising Sarah Sanchez Armstrong, in my capacity as Principal for the academic years 2016-2017 and 2017-2018. This is Sarah's second year of teaching at Busan Foreign School. During that time she taught Spanish to our students. In her first year at BFS, she taught Spanish to elementary and high school students. This year, she taught Spanish to our high school students, including AP Spanish. As a parent at our school, she also served as the President of our Parent Teacher Support Organization.

As per school policy, we are no longer writing open letters of recommendation. This in no way reflects on Sarah Sanchez Armstrong or the work that she has done at Busan Foreign School. I would be more than happy to answer specific questions about her employment via email, telephone or Skype.

Sincerely,

Iain Macfarlane

Principal

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Susan Raleigh, Lead Spanish Teacher
Animas High School
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November 30, 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

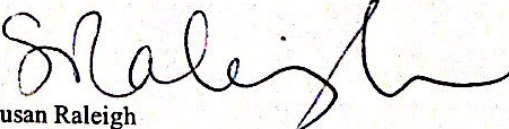
Sarah Sánchez Armstrong has been student-teaching in my Spanish class at Animas High School during the fall 2015 semester. We are a public charter high school in southwest Colorado with 300 students, a collaborative staff, and we follow a Project Based Learning model. Sarah leapt into this pool with both feet and has exhibited a level of participation and competence which I would consider to be exceptional compared to both student teachers and new teachers in general.

Sarah and I co-taught three sections of Spanish 2, and she took complete assumption of my two-day per week Spanish 1 class from the first day of term. When she hit a rocky patch with the Spanish 1 freshmen, Sarah immediately gathered student feedback over one class period. In order to create a comfortable environment for everyone, Sarah established norms for the session that would allow for constructive and solution-oriented feedback. She listened openly to her students and then adjusted her class, validating their positive suggestions. In our Spanish 2 classes, she has deftly handled a collaborative approach with me, and for the month of November she ran the classes by herself. She has a great passion for her subject and nearly boundless energy for organization and planning. She shares that energy and passion generously with her students. Her lesson plans are well thought-out; she strives to think of all her learners' styles, strengths, and needs. Sarah has an excellent grasp of the Spanish language in all its forms, and emphasizes giving kids opportunities to speak—often a difficult task in most foreign language classrooms. She further brings in stories from her personal experience and knowledge of Hispanic culture using popular music, art, literature, and holiday traditions to augment her lessons.

One project Sarah designed and taught this semester was of particular note. In Spanish 2, students reviewed the grammatical concepts and the vocabulary used in describing oneself, one's family, and one's likes and dislikes. They then composed introductory letters to penpals (ELLs at a high school in Ensenada, Mexico). Next, they created typographic self portraits using the words from their letters as the values, outlines, and details in the art. Her thinking was that our students would write, and thus learn the phrases several times over, while also creating a piece of art they would be proud of, and that would add a personal element to send to the penpals.

Overall, I cannot say enough about Sarah's teaching and her vast learning curve. She came into her student teaching already very strong: she has taught skiing and snowboarding for many years, has directed a ski school, is well-travelled and educated, and has a resume full of managerial and organizational positions. I have been most impressed, however, with her willingness to not only receive feedback from students and other teachers, but also her quest for ideas and for improving on her already strong skills. Sarah commonly adjusts her plans from one class to the next, in search of a better solution or a better method. She exhibits four traits which I consider to be indicative of a good teacher: passion, organization, competency in her subject area, and open-mindedness. If this is where Sarah is starting her career, I anticipate her continuing on this trajectory and becoming a great teacher.

Sincerely,



Susan Raleigh