

October 10, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my privilege to write this letter of recommendation for **Katelynn Johnson**. Ms. Johnson was my student in three literacy methods courses at Northern Michigan University. Since these courses had a strong field-based component, I observed her teach several small groups of students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Within these teaching opportunities, Ms. Johnson created individual lessons as well as two six-lesson units while managing student behaviors effectively.

Ms. Johnson excels in planning integrated content lessons that support learning in and through the expressive arts. For example, in a lesson designed for first grade students, she focused the objectives on deciduous plant characteristics over the course of the four seasons (science) and identifying key details in informational texts (language arts). Following an interactive read aloud of a grade-level appropriate text, Ms. Johnson facilitated the students' progress toward the objectives by having them create tissue paper trees that illustrated what the same tree would look like during each of the four seasons. The students were highly engaged throughout the lesson and they all met the lesson objectives.

Another strength of Ms. Johnson's teaching is her ability to adapt her teaching to the needs of the students, even in the middle of the lesson. I observed this in nearly every lesson she taught connected with our courses. For example, while teaching a phonics lesson to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students, she observed their grasp of the first concept quickly and their high level of engagement in the activity she had planned. She immediately adapted the content and delivery to capitalize on their motivation and extend their learning. In another instance, she designed personal learning journeys for individual students exploring planets of their choice during a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade unit about the solar system. Students used a framing device she designed for research and then pursued their own lines of inquiry. In this way, she was able to differentiate instructions for each student in a manageable way.

In addition to these strengths, Ms. Johnson was always professional and participated in class activities, providing her peers with useful thoughts and opinions. She consistently turned in assignments by the deadline and asked for specific feedback to better her practice. Most of all, she demonstrated a commitment to being a reflective practitioner, which I believe will serve her well in this profession. For these reasons, I highly recommend **Katelynn Johnson** for an elementary teaching position. I believe she will be a welcomed addition to any school faculty and district.

I would be happy to answer any questions you have, so feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,



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