

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

April 25, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Michael (Mick) Haley. I was Mick's Field Instructor during his year-long teaching internship in a fifth grade classroom at Glencairn Elementary School in East Lansing, Michigan. During this time, I observed Mick's many skills in the classroom. He knew when to adjust his lessons based on student interests, abilities or readiness. He used different types of participation structures, materials, and academic strategies to enhance standards based instruction.

Mick led students to use critical thinking skills and deepen thinking by asking probing and clarifying questions during lessons. He modeled and coached independent learning, and encouraged students to persist when they encountered difficult tasks before he would share answers. He promoted inquiry by always urging students to "think about it."

He made lessons relevant to students by making connections between the material they were learning and real-life examples. For example, students were learning about primary and secondary resources in Social Studies. Mick brought in a presenter who presented on the mapping of the world during the Age of Discovery by displaying and discussing the primary sources he used during his research. He created authentic activities to promote student learning. For example, during his science unit, students played tug of war to learn about balanced and unbalanced forces.

Mick demonstrated concern for students by adapting the curriculum using available resources and making the curriculum work for every type of learner. He integrated technology in researching interests, developing communication skills, connecting content to personal experiences, and creating routes for students to learn about the world around them. Mick demonstrated respect and care for his students and cultivated many positive relationships with them. He had many lunchtime conversations with students who needed extra support and developed individual plans to help these students succeed in the classroom.

Mick led the class with a positive attitude to create a positive learning environment. He helped create a safe environment for all students where students could express themselves as individuals. Mick promoted shared values and expectations for learning by continually encouraging students to listen to each other and treat each other with kindness. He treated all students fairly but understood that students have different needs to achieve their greatest potential.

In conclusion, I hope by reading this letter you will see that Mick is an intelligent, enthusiastic, and caring educator. He has many desirable qualities that will be a valuable asset to any school community. I would highly recommend Mr. Mick Haley for any teaching position he pursues. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Andrea Varricchione
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Elementary Education Field Instructor



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