



Harriet Bishop Elementary School

406 36th Ave NW Rochester, MN 55901-7541
(507) 328-3100

Diane L. Jordan
4123 2nd Place NW
Rochester, MN 55901

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this as a letter of recommendation for Jessica Trelstad who has been a student teacher in my classroom here at Harriet Bishop Elementary.

My name is Diane Jordan and I have taught first grade in the Rochester Public Schools for the last 12 years. I have worked, collaborated and mentored Ms. Trelstad during the 2015-2016 school year.

Ms. Trelstad is an outstanding young woman of character and possesses qualities of teaching far beyond her years of experience. Jessica sees every child as an individual. She has developed a philosophy that **every** student should be treated as though they have an IEP. This extends to students requiring extra support, as well as, those who need to be challenged beyond the standard curriculum. I have also witnessed her work tenaciously to ensure that our most challenged readers are met with daily on a one to one basis. Their growth, even within this short six weeks, has been measurable and I know that it is in no small part Jessica's work with them.

Jessica has also worked very hard to ensure that our underserved and culturally diverse learners are supported and challenged to go beyond what some teachers might consider "good enough". She has wonderful classroom management with a combination of calm, yet firm and consistent strategies. I have seen little in the way of behavioral issues from this typically bouncy group of kids. These qualities of caring and maintaining high expectations set Jessica apart.

While student teaching here, Jessica has been part of an established team of four veteran teachers, all of whom have very strong opinions and high expectations not only for students but of each other. Ms. Trelstad quickly assumed responsibilities and was not afraid to face new challenges and situations. She consistently has gone above and beyond expectations here in the classroom. For example, she took it upon herself to establish all of the classroom's morning routines and helped the students achieve their goal of 30 minutes of self-sustained reading. This is almost unheard of this early in the year with first graders. Jessica has worked hard to develop a team atmosphere with this group of learners and they have all benefited from their close bond. They can now transition and shift between activities with ease, while remaining calm and focused. She has also taught many great lessons using the SMART board, as well as, helped me launch Daily 5 to help differentiate literacy instruction. It is my personal goal this year to create and implement more inquiry-based lessons and Jessica has been a tremendous help in researching, planning and implementing several of these hands-on learning experiences.



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I would usually reserve this level of praise for an amazing instructor with years of teaching and exemplary assessment results; however, Ms. Trelstad is deserving of such praise. It has been a privilege to teach with her and our whole teaching team was saddened when she finished her time here. You will not be disappointed with Ms. Trelstad and I assure you she will be an amazing addition to your staff.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information that you might require.

Respectfully,

Diane L. Jordan

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