

Mt. Washington School

1730 Mears Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45230
513-363-3800

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with pleasure that I am writing this letter on behalf of Mr. Sam Long to recommend that he be considered for employment in your school district. I worked with Sam in my seventh and eighth grade Language Arts/Social Studies classroom throughout the 2011-2012 school year at Mount Washington Elementary School.

As I mentored Sam, he was an engaged worker with many questions to ask and demonstrated a great deal of enthusiasm. Sam did an excellent job of balancing my usual classroom practices while adding his own creativity and providing students with engaging learning opportunities. He especially excelled at providing technology in his lessons and providing a fresh up to date perspective of the world as the students see it. As the year went on, we worked well together and often jumped in to add to the lessons we were teaching. Sam was more than willing to take constructive criticism and also provide positive feedback of his own when it was needed.

Sam took control of my classroom for twelve weeks, preparing lessons, keeping the electronic grade book, and teaching both seventh grade Social Studies and seventh and eighth grade Language Arts. In that time, Sam met obstacles, but his willingness to listen to my critiques and grow from challenges allowed him to largely succeed in those twelve weeks.

During this time Sam created a long-term poetry unit that allowed students to create their own poems, exposed them to various poetry terms, and required that they analyze famous poets' works as well. Additionally, he worked with the students on literature units centered on three class novels: *The Ghost of Spirit Bear*, *Flight #116 is Down*, and *Stormbreaker* by creating thought-provoking higher level thinking questions and using elements of Literature Circles. Sam used multimedia often in the classroom to spice up his lessons and promote student discussion on a variety of topics, including current events. Sam also learned and implemented many of the components in our school-wide model of Kagan Cooperative Learning strategies in order to keep students interacting positively and constructively with equal participation.

In addition to creating units and lessons, Sam established a good rapport with the majority of his students and demonstrated genuine interest in their success. Sam's respectful and caring attitude towards their needs, both academically and personally, will be an asset as he continues his teaching career. Students and peers enjoyed his outgoing and positive attitude.

I recommend that Sam Long be considered for a teaching position in your district. He has learned to engage the class in thought provoking and stimulating discussions, adapt to the needs of the students during a lesson and provide the students with positive and constructive comments. He is fair, energetic and eager to teach.

Should you wish to talk to me in person feel free to contact me at 513-633-0557 (cell) or school 513-363-3800.

Sincerely,

Randy Stancliff Swantko