

Thursday, March 29, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

Marissa Mountford was a teacher candidate in my class of grades 1 and 2 for 8 weeks. She took initiation to build a good rapport with the students and learned their names very quickly which helped her gain trust and respect by them when addressing them by their names by the second day of her placement. She positioned herself strategically to help support and motivate the students during tasks.

She worked collaboratively with myself to plan, deliver and reflect on lessons. Marissa often asked questions to ensure that her lessons were appropriate and supported the needs of the students. She was mindful of cultural sensitivities as well as diagnosis that were identified and supported in IEP's and Record of Modifications. Marissa received feedback with appreciation and often explained how she would adjust the lesson or activity for next time. Marissa accessed the Ontario curriculum for grades 1 and 2 as well as school resources, from the library, the math room and the literacy room. Marissa learned how to access Ministry documents, such as Guide for Effective Mathematics and Writing to help prepare lessons. She has also learned how valuable the public library can be for resources.

Marissa presented confidence in her abilities to lead the class during the daily routines as well as in managing behaviour during the day as well. She used positive reinforcement, problem solving strategies while supporting children and specific strategies for high needs in our classroom. Marissa was able to identify and understand the purpose of my intended interactions with my students (e.g., sending a student with a busy body to do a delivery, rather than redirect him to sit down, giving choices to listen in a chair or on the carpet, etc.).

Marissa participated in communicating student learning with families through Seesaw. She posted pictures and captions to keep families updated on what is currently happening and to highlight progress. She also incorporated technology into her lessons by using a variety of devices such as, the document camera, ipads, chromebooks and applications such as, Google classroom, Google Forms. Marissa got involved with extra-curricular activities as well by supporting the primary Lego Club during nutrition breaks.

I am confident that Marissa will be a valuable teacher to any school community as she is willing to take initiatives to provide a positive learning environment not only for her students for the school community. She is always has the best interests of her students in mind and has appreciation for all types of learners.

Please remember my recommendation, as you consider hiring Marissa as your employee.

Sincerely,

Jessica Bearinger  
Driftwood Park Public School