



School of Education and Human Resources
Office of School and Field Services

381 Pawley Hall
Rochester, Michigan 48309 - 4494
248-219-1444

April 27, 2014

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to be able to provide a letter of recommendation for Jennifer Palombit recommending her for a position as an art teacher. I had the pleasure of having Jennifer as a student in my course, AED 302 "Teaching Art in Elementary School" in the summer term of 2013 I also was her supervisor for her teacher internship in the winter semester of 2014.

Jennifer Palombit is a warm, intelligent, knowledgeable and creative person. She is extremely well organized and highly professional. Jenny's knowledge of children of all ages, her love of learning, of making and teaching art and her generous collegiality make her a welcome member of the school community.

In working with colleagues, Jenny contributes generously and creatively while seeking and welcoming the ideas and contribution of others. This is true of her relationship with students and their art, as well. She treats students of all ages as developing artists with an understanding of developmental stages of artistic development, with respect and genuine interest.

Jenny believes that all students can be successful and that in order for students to take artistic risks and to be creatively engaged with art, they must first feel safe to do so. To this end, she takes great care to create a positive, supportive and productive classroom, based on trust and mutual respect that is supported by effective classroom management strategies and routines. She does this extremely successfully.

Jenny understands and integrates new and complex ideas readily and uses them with enthusiasm and inventiveness. She embraces her work as an artist and teacher with that same commitment, enthusiasm and inventiveness. She routinely goes above and beyond what would be required out of intellectual and artistic curiosity, genuine engagement with and pleasure in the work. This makes her teaching ever evolving, fresh and rich. Her lessons reflect this love of learning, teaching and creating art. Jenny understands that if students are to make art that is meaningful and to make connections to learning in other disciplines and to their own lives, art lessons must be rich in content and deep in meaning.

Jenny is thoughtful and creative in preparing and teaching substantive, age appropriate, engaging lessons that are aligned with state and national core arts standards and benchmarks. Her lessons reflect her respect for students as developing artists and her understanding of their particular developmental and skill level. This makes her

instruction effective in meeting the needs of her individual students. Jenny mindfully creates lessons that embrace and celebrate diversity and are meaningful and relevant to students.

An example of Jenny's high expectations and respect for students is a lesson in which students created their own "Art Process Journals" from recycled books. Using old library books, students made an art journal for use throughout the semester. This journal combined written and visual language, personally driven research, experimentation, practice and expression, both written and visual. These journals became an extension of the student's sense of self and also a place to experiment and learn with art materials. This assignment was designed to nurture each student's curiosity, personal connection to their own work, skill development, appreciation of the usefulness of research and to develop the habits of mind of exemplar artists. This lesson exemplifies the depth of thinking, personal connection and thinking dispositions Jenny makes a part of her teaching of art.

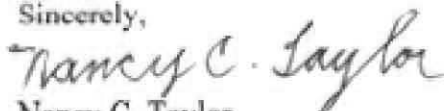
Jenny is an accomplished artist who brings her expertise in traditional, as well as digital media and technology to her students. She is comfortable with technology and includes it in lessons effectively as a means to support both teaching and learning. In addition to her knowledge and skill in making art, she brings her knowledge of art history and contemporary art to her teaching.

Jenny has shown great initiative and commitment to teaching in taking on many responsibilities. She views herself as part of the school community and is generous with her time and ideas as part of that community. On many occasions, Jenny has volunteered her time and energies. She has served as our student chapter president of the National Art Education Association, has attended state Art Education Association conferences and has actively participated in this professional organization. She helped hang student art at the regional Michigan Art Education Association student exhibition and volunteered her time to work at that event, as well. She recently mounted an exhibit of student art at Oakland University, and held an opening that was attended by students, families, and the public.

Jenny has many wonderful qualities that one finds in excellent teachers and has a passionate desire to teach art. I have every confidence that Jenny's intelligence, depth of understanding, work ethic, good humor and obvious love of art and learning will make her an excellent art teacher and one that will create meaningful and memorable experiences for her students.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or if I can be of any help.

Sincerely,



Nancy C. Taylor

Instructor, Educational Studies and Teacher Development

Oakland University

Rochester, MI

248-219-1444