

Mark McLaughlin
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Good day:

Please accept this letter as a sincere recommendation of Gerald Rideout for the position he seeks at your school. A brief description of my affiliation with Jay, as he is known to me, will quickly allow you to recognize how and why I am pleased to recommend him for this position.

As instructor of Secondary English Methods at the College of Education, I came to know Jay last year as a student in the class. Following the conclusion of that course, I placed Jay in his practicum at Lowell High School and served as his supervisor throughout his practicum. In that time, I have come to know Jay well in his academic and professional capacities, and can say that with conviction that he is a committed and truly talented student and teacher.

In his work as a student in the Initial Certification Program, Jay was faced with a heavy course load. From the start, he demonstrated not only a real commitment to learning about the role of a teacher in the English classroom, but a commitment also to the notion that learning does not stop when the course ends. Jay was always a vigorous questioner and an excellent thinker, whose comments in class were welcomed by me and by other students who came to appreciate his views born of unique life experiences earned well before entering my classroom. I was particularly struck, in our class, by Jay's keen intellect and broad based content knowledge. This, combined with what appears to be an "inherent" sense about what constitutes effective teaching practice, allows me to say with confidence that Jay embodies the most important qualities necessary for a successful teacher. In his mini-teaching lessons, class papers, and conversation, I came to the conclusion that Jay's combination of instinct for teaching practice and content knowledge would prove a useful and productive union of skills that would serve his students well.

In his practicum, Jay has developed into a truly first rate teacher and classroom presence. Specifically, I have been pleased to see him develop into a genuinely curious and consistently reflective practitioner, who has demonstrated time and again his interest in improving his instruction through innovation based on continuous and honest self-evaluation. This predisposition toward reflective practice, combined with his broad based content knowledge and well developed pedagogical skills, makes Jay, in my opinion, an excellent candidate for any position he seeks. Clearly, Jay's professional performance in his practicum has distinguished him as among the most effective in his program. As a probing and deeply knowledgeable scholar and practitioner, Jay has become a truly committed and talented teacher. It is with those facts in mind, then, that I am pleased to recommend him most highly for the position he seeks.

Sincerely,

Mark McLaughlin