



STOWE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

"Striving for peak performance in teaching and learning"

Lamoille South Supervisory Union ~ P.O. Box 340 ~ Morrisville, VT 05661 ~ Ph. (802)888-4541 ~ Fax (802)888-6710

May 1, 2004

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Technology Integration Specialist for the Stowe School District, I have worked closely with my colleague, Mark Arnold, Technology Integration Specialist for the Morristown School District for the last two years. As member districts of the Lamoille South Supervisory Union, we have had the opportunity to work side-by-side in a variety of contexts.

My first collaborative experience with Mark occurred during our intra-district and international fourth grade writing project. His special talents as a curriculum designer, team leader, and project manager were evident throughout this work. Taking a traditional fourth grade reading and writing project, he transformed it into an exemplary standards-based integrated technology unit. Working directly with teachers across the Supervisory Union, and virtually with international teachers through real-time communication, Mark demonstrated his ability to engage teachers and students to effect a change in classroom practice. By challenging teachers from all nations to take character analysis beyond a standard chart of personality traits to create an extraordinary, student-created gallery of fairy tale characters and facilitating high-level thinking skills of the participants to successively contribute chapters to an original fairy tale, he enabled teachers to set aside their fears of technology and experience first-hand the power of integrated technology. Just through this one example, although there are many more, Mark has proven he is a true educational transformation specialist.

As a former classroom teacher, Mark is able to relate exceptionally well to both teachers and students. I have had several opportunities to see him in action during classroom projects. Because of his ability to engage students in exciting and authentic learning activities, students are highly motivated and the classroom is a hub of remarkable energy and focus. His subject matter knowledge, understanding of pedagogy, first-hand experience with the practical concerns of the classroom teacher, not to mention his keen sense of humor, allows him to develop professional and productive relationships with faculty and staff as a peer, mentor, and consulting teacher.

Mark is a creative, dedicated educational professional with a strong commitment to professional standards and best practices. He would be an asset to any community of learners and I enthusiastically recommend him without reservation.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Nann
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