



Appleton East High School

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Ms. Maggie Stalsberg, my student teacher at Appleton East High School in Appleton, Wisconsin for the first nine weeks of the 2008-2009 school year. Maggie began the quarter observing several science and non-science teachers to gain a more diverse understanding of high school life. As the quarter progressed, Maggie developed her own daily lessons and assignments, created rubrics for assessing the students and promptly graded students' work to provide relevant feedback. We collaborated on lesson plans and evaluated the effectiveness of the instruction during our planning time.

Her workload included six weeks of primary instruction in two ninth grade physical science classes and five weeks with five upper-level physics classes. She was responsible for all aspects of classroom life, including lesson planning, grading, and parent communications during her last two weeks. She also fully participated in department and staff meetings, open house night, and parent conferences. Maggie performed all of these tasks in a professional manner, meeting all deadlines while maintaining her sense of humor and demonstrating collegiality with all staff members.

Despite the risks and challenges that new technologies can present, Maggie was willing to integrate new technologies, such as our interactive white board, into her lessons. Maggie led lessons that allowed students to explore physics with tools such as video analysis and data collection via probeware. Maggie is incredibly dedicated to becoming a better teacher. After each lesson, Maggie would reflect on the lessons as a whole; she kept elements that worked well and revised sections that needed improvement. She would use student questions and comments during the class to informally evaluate the students' progress and plan for upcoming lessons.

During the lessons, Maggie was keenly aware of the students' needs and progress. When necessary, she took the time to work with students one-on-one to help them gain better understanding of the content. She really enjoyed the one-to-one learning that occurred and was elated when students told her that they finally understood a concept.

Maggie has many traits that make her a valuable candidate for a teaching position but her dedication to being a life-long learner really stands out. During her placement, she regularly reviewed articles related to the classroom from professional journals and books related to the classroom. Eager to network and learn from her peers, Maggie attended our area's local physics share session. Her commitment to improving her teaching combined with her honesty, patience and humor assures me that she will be a successful and effective teacher.

I give my unreserved recommendation for Maggie Stalsberg; she would be a tremendous asset to any school community.

Sincerely,

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