



Sierra Linda School

2201 Jasmine Avenue • Oxnard • CA • 93036 • 805-385-1581

April 2, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of Danielle Watkins. She was placed with me in the winter of 2010 at Sierra Linda Elementary School to embark on her first student teaching assignment. I must note here, that I was concerned. I was mid year with the most challenging class I had ever taught in my 15 years of teaching. The class was rife with serious behavior issues, two special needs students, and second language learners in desperate need of additional support. The challenge of meeting the needs of all was overwhelming. During that time, I found a true teacher in Danielle. She far exceeded my expectations and those of the Sierra Linda staff as well. She is incredible!

Danielle was responsible for organizing and implementing the core curriculum based on California State content standards. She developed a strong sense of the importance of planning and realizing where her students were academically, and where she needed to get them. She consistently utilized instructional strategies that addressed the diverse needs of the students. She was able to reflect on her own teaching, and modify her technique when she realized a concept was not being understood. In addition, she regularly collected a variety of assessment data and used it to guide her instruction.

During her assignment, Danielle maintained a learning environment that was structured and motivating. Expectations for student behavior were effectively established and consistently maintained. One of Danielle's greatest strengths was her ability to foster a classroom climate built upon respect and responsibility. She quickly attended inservice meetings and learned our school-wide adopted behavior program, "Lesson- One" and utilized it effectively.

Equally important, her interpersonal skills are excellent and she communicated openly and honestly with staff, students and parents. She was well liked and respected on staff, and participated in many school related activities, from staff and grade-level meetings to Valentine's Day Breakfast with the families.

It is without hesitation that I recommend Danielle Watkins for a teaching position in your district or at your school. While a tremendous loss for our district, Danielle will be an incredible asset to yours.

Sincerely,

Jana Cannon, 3rd grade teacher
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