

9 February 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure I write this letter of recommendation for Kayla Steffens.

I have known Kayla for several years through a variety of organizations and extra-curricular activities including when she was a student in Englewood Schools, and most recently as a founding board member, the treasurer, for our 501c3 non profit, SoMe CAGT. Additionally, I have directly observed her work with Destination Imagination and with the improv class she plans and teachers to students (one of whom is my son) who are working on social skills and flexible thinking.

In 2014 Kayla and I both served on the Englewood School District Gifted Advisory Committee, she as a student representative and I as a district educator. Kayla's service on this committee was instrumental in that she clearly communicated students' perspectives regarding instruction, extra curricular opportunities, and gifted support.

Most recently, we have worked closely together to establish SoMe CAGT. Kayla continuously offers excellent suggestions, initiates and executes solutions, and steps up without hesitation to actively contribute to its success. Her outstanding collaboration abilities and natural leadership skills are indispensable in our organization. For example, she took the initiative to prepare, research, and file our paperwork to become a 501c3. Also, Kayla has developed processes that keep our organization running efficiently (e.g., creating meeting minute templates, migrating and organizing all documents into our GSuite).

From conversations with Kayla when discussing her student teaching experience as well as her teaching position as a 7th grade math teacher at Bruce Randolph School, it is notable that Kayla exhibits the astute ability to observe and use best practices. She is a quick study who is thoughtful and deliberate about what she does when teaching and how to best interact with students. She naturally understands that differentiation is necessary depending upon individual students as well as class dynamics and adjusts her teaching accordingly. Additionally, she is enthusiastic and eager to adopt best practices that continue to hone her craft in teaching, which ultimately benefit all of her students. During improv class and her work with students through Destination Imagination, I have witnessed Kayla's warm repertoire and genuine caring demeanor with all students, parents and families. Her enthusiasm about learning no matter the content or subject is contagious and thus her students feel encouraged and safe taking risks as well as taking ownership of their learning. I am inspired by her commitment to student success, and wish my son could have her as his teacher!

Without hesitation, I confidently and wholeheartedly recommend Kayla for a teaching position in any organization wise enough to select her, as they will be fortunate to have her as an integral part of their community. Kayla is a true asset.

Sincerely,



Connolly Sherwood  
SoMe CAGT | President  
Gifted Education Specialist | Sheridan School District