

January 23, 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Teaching a secondary literacy methods course to prospective math teachers is not always the easiest task. Oftentimes, it takes readings, discussions, and lots of time and persuasion to get math teachers to see the value of literacy in their content area. Kayla Steffens, however, was different. Ms. Steffens was a true life-long learner in the sense that she seemed perpetually curious and inspired when confronted with new ideas.

Ms. Steffens was the type of student that brought life to the class. She would pose thoughtful questions, challenge the status quo, and consistently engage with the content by connecting it to her own personal experience in the classroom.

I have not directly observed Ms. Steffens' teaching abilities in the classroom, but I can speak confidently to her talents and tenacity for planning, processing, and reflecting on her daily lessons. Ms. Steffens had shown me some of her work that she completed with her students, and these lessons demonstrated her ability to weave the basic procedures of math with the higher level demands of understanding the rationale behind the procedures. Furthermore, Ms. Steffens presented these lessons in a simple and direct manner that would have helped all students be able to access the content.

Perhaps what impressed me the most about Ms. Steffens was her ability to see beyond her content. She had a strong ability to see her students for who they were, know their motivations, and artfully connect her content area to each student's world. I observed this through her reflections in class and her constant conversations with her peers to problem solve specific situations.

Ms. Steffens was the type of teacher who did not sit still because she knew there was constant work to be done. I have no hesitation to recommend Kayla Steffens. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



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