



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
PO. Box 9000, Holland MI 49422-9000
Phone 616.395.7740. Fax 616.395.7506

I have had the pleasure of supervising Amelia Harkenrider as she completed her student teaching placement in a first-grade classroom in Zeeland Public Schools. Her placement was diverse in ethnicity, disabilities, and socio-economic status. There were a variety of challenging behaviors in the classroom as well. Amelia is a natural teacher and jumped into her placement with a positive attitude and a strong work ethic.

Amelia is very relational and formed authentic relationships with her students. They knew she genuinely cared for them and was supportive of their individual needs. Amelia also worked well with her cooperating teacher as well as her grade level team. She co-planned and co-taught effectively. She shows maturity and common sense.

Amelia's lessons were well prepared and very organized. She used data to inform her instruction and was flexible and adaptable when teaching. Amelia takes advice and instruction well. She is eager to improve and seeks to learn new strategies. She shows initiative and is professional in her demeanor, speech, and attitude.

Amelia's behavior management is calm yet firm, supportive, and caring. She earned the right to be heard by her students by being fair, consistent, and positive. She kept the bar high for behavior management, despite a challenging group of students.

Amelia created a Social Studies Unit Plan called Past, Present and Future. She used interactive, multi-sensory activities as well as literature to engage her young learners. She crafted the unit using data from pre- and post-assessments and was able to modify her plan as she anticipated student's learning needs. She transformed an abstract subject into a developmentally appropriate unit. Amelia also created some great interactive read aloud slides to go with the reading curriculum.

Amelia is a great team player and would be an asset to any school staff. Organized, hard-working and relational are qualities that will allow her to be an outstanding teacher. I give her my high recommendation.

Please feel free to contact me for further information and input.

Carrie Homkes
Hope College Supervisor.
616-550-3701

