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Grand Ledge High School

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January 21, 2008

To Whom It Concerns:

I am writing a letter of reference for Mrs. Jessica Scaggs. Jessica stepped into a position here at Grand Ledge High School as a long term substitute when we had an unexpected opening in our Science Department consisting of two hours of Biology and three hours of Chemistry in the Community. In itself, taking on such a position when the school year has already started and the students are used to one teacher's methods is a challenging task. Adding to the challenges are a classroom setup that is not at all a science lab room, and a group of students who have been less than cooperative at times.

In spite of these challenges, Mrs. Scaggs has adroitly risen to the occasion. She took a difficult situation and has gently and carefully moved these students along academically and socially. Jessica is more experienced in elementary settings, yet she prepared lessons that are in line with our academic standards and expectations. When I talked to Jessica about working some lab time into her lessons, she took the initiative to contact the veteran teachers in the department and make arrangements to switch classrooms. Jessica showed her concern for student learning by setting up a website that allows students access to additional information and readings related to the concepts being taught in class.

I have had occasion to watch Jessica in class. She speaks clearly and carefully with her students. She handles classroom management with ease. When one student had grabbed all the markers for the white board, she got him to return them in a good natured way, turning what could have been an uncomfortable confrontation into a gentle reminder. When I have spoken to Jessica about our expectations for the class, she has listened and incorporated any suggestions into her plans. She provides plans to me regularly. They are well constructed, reasonably paced, and include enough variety that high school students will find the presentations and activities interesting and worthwhile.



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Personally, I notice that Jessica makes it a point to be at the door to greet her classes whenever possible. She presents a very positive figure, always smiling and confident. I believe that this quality helps her a great deal in establishing a trusting relationship with her students. I believe that Jessica is a capable teacher, and that she would make a fine addition to your science staff.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss this any further. You may reach me at the school phone number or at hudnutte@gips.k12.mi.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Hudnutt'.

Elisabeth Hudnutt
Assistant Principal