

January 17th, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

It's my honor and pleasure to provide this letter of recommendation for Karina Olsen as she pursues a teaching position. As her lead teacher at New Canaan Country School, I've been thrilled having Karina as an apprentice in our sixth grade classroom throughout the 2016-17 school year, where she has skillfully planned and taught lessons and units in mathematics, English, social studies, life skills, executive functioning and more. We'll all miss her spirit, her work ethic and her daily contributions to our school community.

Karina started her teaching career with us just a year after graduating from Principia College. She brought with her solid training in pedagogical methods, tremendous comfort and familiarity working with youth, along with great energy and enthusiasm. As a fledgling teacher, I was immediately struck by Karina's confidence and her ability to command a sixth grader's attention. Her kindness and genuine compassion for students is balanced beautifully by the high academic standards she sets each and every day. Her lessons are meticulously planned, student centric and high interest. She brings exciting new ideas to life; I'm confident that she will continue her momentum with her next school.

Karina also impressed me with her commitment to lifelong learning. She successfully collaborated with her mentor and fellow members of her teaching team, took advantage of several professional development opportunities offered on campus, and took web-based courses to enhance her understanding of RULER, a program that strengthens a school community's methods surrounding emotional intelligence, and "The Science of Learning: What Every Teacher Needs to Know." She also went out of her way to elicit feedback from her colleagues, all in an effort to hone her craft. It's this commitment to growth and her students' well-being that makes Karina an outstanding educator.

Most importantly, Karina's incredible sense of morality and faith in children truly sets her apart from the crowd. This year, Karina helped co-teach a group of 16 sixth graders, several of whom came into our class with complex learning, behavioral and emotional profiles. Even some of our veteran teachers were challenged by the needs of this particular group. Karina, however, has never been fazed. She was calm yet firm when faced with oppositional behavior, explicit and patient when supporting significant processing deficits, and compassionate and gentle when servicing profound struggles with anxiety. As her co-teacher, I have been struck by her high ethical standards ... and have witnessed how those standards positively influence those around her.

Karina has my highest recommendation for a position within a classroom, and I look forward to learning more about the accomplishments that lie in her professional future. Karina will prove to be a tremendous asset on any faculty. Please don't hesitate to contact me for any further information. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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