



MESSMER

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Knowledge. Faith. Leadership.

May 21, 2013

Br. Bob Smith
President and CEO

Mike Bartels
Vice President

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my great pleasure to recommend Shannon Walsh for the position of high school English teacher. I have had the opportunity to work with Ms. Walsh as her cooperating teacher while she has been student teaching at Messmer High School. Less than a week after her arrival she assumed responsibility for teaching one section of English 1 and three sections of English 2. During her time here I have found her to be an exceptionally strong and dedicated teacher.

Ms. Walsh works hard to prepare engaging, dynamic lesson plans that are accessible to all learners. She creates opportunities for learning through her ability to effectively implement a wide variety of instructional strategies. She also implements relevant formative and summative assessments and encourages students to reflect on their own growth and achievement. As she asks the students to reflect she models this behavior through regular self-reflection.

Additionally, Ms. Walsh's lesson plans require students to develop higher level thinking skills to respond to her skillful questioning and create connections to both themselves and to real world ideas. I was most impressed by her implementation of reader-response journals that required students to connect the themes of *Things Fall Apart* with the same themes in their own lives, their community, and the world.

Ms. Walsh is a strong classroom manager. Her extensive planning of quality, engaging lessons aids in preventing problems before they begin. She organizes the classroom and activities to keep students engaged in learning. Her open, friendly manner allows her to quickly build rapport with the students, also preventing problems before they begin. Ms. Walsh is quick to respond in a positive manner if a situation does arise. She is often able to significantly impact a situation with a quick redirect or a private conversation with the student involved.

It is without reservation that I recommend Shannon Walsh for the position of high school English teacher. I believe that any school where she chooses to work will be very lucky to have her and that the students enrolled in that school will benefit from having Ms. Walsh as a teacher.

Sincerely,

Kathryn E. Pavlik
English Teacher
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