



BEACON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ryan Bruder, Principal
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To: Dexter Board of Education
From: Ryan Bruder
Subject: Kindergarten Teacher Recommendation
Date: July 13, 2020

As a result of our most recent interview process, we would like to recommend Ms. Jessica (Jess) Wolma for the Kindergarten position at Beacon Elementary School.

Ms. Wolma received her Bachelor of Arts in Education with an Elementary Certificate in English Language Arts from the University of Michigan which included a semester in Italy where she studied both the Reggio and Montessori philosophies.

Ms. Wolma is moving back to the Ann Arbor area after living and teaching in Virginia for the past two years where she taught Kindergarten and Third Grade. Jess brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and passion for social emotional learning; social justice; and play-based, inquiry and student-centered learning through the Reggio and Montessori philosophies. Jess will be a wonderful addition to our Kindergarten team, our staff and our Beacon Family!

Our interview committee was comprised of: Laura Ayers, Kim Evanski, Lauren Garleff, Brook Gillum, Heather Green, Kristen Linn, Kelli Nowaczck and myself.

Thank you,

Ryan Bruder

Ryan Bruder
Principal

Jessica J. Wolma

contact info redacted

Certification

Michigan Provisional Elementary Certificate ♦ June 2018

- K-5 All Subjects
- K-8 All Subjects Self Contained Classroom
- 6-8 Language Arts

Certificate of Completion: Teaching English as a Second Language ♦ December 2015

Education

University of Michigan School of Education ♦ Ann Arbor, Michigan

Bachelor of Arts in Education with Elementary Certificate ♦ English Language Arts

Cumulative GPA: 3.82 ♦ Graduation: April 2018

Teaching Experience

Kindergarten Teacher ♦ September 2019 to present

Westgate Elementary ♦ Mclean, Virginia

- Led a classroom of 25 Kindergarteners, 13 of which qualified for ESOL services
- Planned and taught health lessons designed to support social emotional skills
- Organized guided reading groups to promote fluency and vowel pair knowledge

Third Grade Teacher ♦ September 2018 to June 2019

Westgate Elementary ♦ Mclean, Virginia

- Designed a wordless picture book writing unit focused on creative expression
- Led strategy reading groups to support summarizing techniques and comprehension
- Incorporated technology into classroom routines to promote modern life skills

Awards

Marshall Pyramid New Teacher of the Year ♦ 2019-2020 School Year

Fairfax County Public Schools ♦ Mclean, Virginia

- Nominated by peers, administrators, and parents
- Recognized for exceptional teaching and community building skills
- Applicant pool consisted of 500+ educators

Relevant Experience

Diversity Book Club Leader ♦ August 2019 to April 2020

Westgate Elementary ♦ Mclean, Virginia

- Examined the cultural and linguistic diversity in classrooms
- Focused on creating a culturally inclusive classroom in order to value diversity
- Reviewed strategies for teaching cultural competency to minimize implicit biases

Assistant Coach ♦ August 2019 to November 2019

Marshall High School Freshman Volleyball ♦ Mclean, Virginia

- Organized drills, schedules, and lineups to give structure to practices and games
- Used one-on-one and small group work to increase player's ability in skill areas
- Conferred with players in order to prompt conflict resolution

International Student ♦ May 2017 to June 2017

Study Abroad ♦ Reggio Emilia, Italy

- Participated in inquiry-based discussions about Reggio and Montessori philosophies
- Observed and interacted with students at the Reggio Children facility and local schools
- Discussed how to integrate Reggio and Montessori methods into traditional classrooms