



DEXTER HIGH SCHOOL

Melanie Nowak, Principal
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nowakm@dexterschools.org

To: Dexter Board of Education
From: Melanie Nowak
Subject: High School Math Recommendation
Date: August 19, 2021

As a result of our most recent interview process, we would like to recommend Mr. Drake Reinert for our Dexter High School Math position. With his background experience, we are confident that Mr. Reinert would be a great addition to the DHS math department. Connecting with young people is natural for Drake - he is caring, compassionate, and has a heart for kids.

Drake is a familiar face in the Dexter community - he has worked in the district as a paraprofessional and was very active as a parent volunteer. We would be ecstatic to bring Drake into the high school and add his fun, caring, and supportive personality to the building.

Interview committee: Ken Koenig, Melanie Nowak, Ryan Fisher, and Karen Walls

Drake Reinert

WORK EXPERIENCE

Dexter Community Schools

October, 2020 – Present

Para Educator - Wylie Elementary

Dexter, MI

- Implemented goals that balance the social, emotional, and academic development of my students.
- Assisted students with disabilities, including ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Dexter Cooperative Preschool

June, 2018 – May, 2020

Coop Board Member - Treasurer

Dexter, MI

- Developed and proposed financial plans for the school with a budget of \$40,000.
- I instructed my son's class virtually for the final 11 weeks of the school year during the Covid-19 shutdown.

Anchor Elementary Parent Teacher Organization

September, 2015 – June, 2019

APTO Board Member

Dexter, MI

- *Treasurer, 2018-19, Volunteer Coordinator, 2017-18, Director, 2016-17*

Williamson County Schools

January, 2013 – May, 2014

Math Teacher – Fairview Middle School

Fairview, TN

- Implemented Carnegie Learning program in 7th grade, 8th grade, and Algebra 1 classrooms.
- As a Leadership Team member, I helped improve school climate by reshaping and providing continuity with the school's Positive Behavior Support program.
- Created a Math Club for 8th grade students where we launched rockets and swabbed the school for bacteria.
 - In-depth exploration of exponential growth and introduction to area under the curve.
- Started an Ultimate Frisbee Club and coached the track and cross country team.

Metro Nashville Public School System

August, 2008 – December, 2012

Math Teacher – Two Rivers Middle School

Nashville, TN

- Taught middle school students 7th, 8th, and Algebra 1 mathematics.
- As TRMS Math Department Chair, I led professional development on technology topics including how to utilize iPads in the classroom and using response pads to improve feedback through formative assessment.
- Volunteered as assistant coach for the boy's basketball team and supervised the Outdoor Adventure Club.

Kroger

August, 2005 – August, 2008

Assistant Store Manager

Nashville, TN

- Directed 120 associates to achieve weekly sales goals and reviewed financial reports to evaluate opportunities.

EDUCATION

Lipscomb University

December, 2009

MA in Learning and Teaching

Nashville, TN

Indiana University, Kelley School of Business

May, 2005

BS in Finance and Operations Management

Bloomington, IN

ACTIVITIES & INTERESTS

- Middle Tennessee Math Teachers Board Member May, 2012 – May, 2014
- Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America, Troop 36 July, 2000
- **Interests:** Mountain & Road Biking; Disc Golf; Canoeing; Reddit; Tennis; Golf; Puns



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To: Dexter Board of Education
From: Melanie Nowak
Subject: High School High Needs Special Education Recommendation
Date: August 19, 2021

As a result of our most recent interview process, we would like to recommend Ms. Kimberly Samson for our Dexter High School High Needs Special Education position. With her background experience, we are confident that Ms. Samson would be a great addition to the DHS Special Education department. Ms. Samson is very passionate about working with students with special needs - she stated that this would be her absolute "dream job". When talking about working with young people with special needs, Kimberly becomes animated - the passion and care radiate from her face.

Kimberly Samson has many years of experience in education; however, working with students who have high needs has been a career goal and passion. Kim has volunteered her time at High Point and several other schools specially created for students with significant disabilities. Ms. Samson knows that this is her calling.

Interview committee: Abby Holland, Ken Koenig, Anne Nakon, Melanie Nowak, and Karen Walls

Kimberly A Samson

SECONDARY SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER seeking opportunity for Special Education Position

KEY SKILLS

Web-based, Hybrid, Instructor-led Training
Canvas/Blackboard Delivery
Learner Needs
(ADDIE, 5 E's, SAM, NGSS, PLTW)
Statistical Analysis (two-sample t-test)
Proficient Microsoft Office and Google Platform
Power School
Screen Capture/Recording
Digital Video (iMovie)
Writing/Conducting Evaluations (Danielson)
Web-based Conferencing- Zoom/Google Meet
ELearning Web Services (E2020/Odysseyware)
Research Skills (literature review, data collection, document analysis, focus group facilitation, survey design, interviews)

KEY STRENGTHS

17+ yrs. Training and Curriculum Development
Master's Instructional Design
Exceptional written and oral communication skills
Training/Delivery of content effectively and efficiently
Team Player/ Strong Leader/ Problem Solver
Exceeds Program/Depart. Goals

AWARDS

2014 Educator of the Year
Jackson Area
Manufacturers Association
2018-2019 Columbia
Educator of the Year

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

SECONDARY SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER at COLUMBIA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL (Resource Room/Co-teacher Algebra II and Geometry)
Brooklyn, MI • 2004 to present

Empower student's success towards graduation through development, analysis and implementation of curriculum according to Michigan Merit Curriculum and Next Generation Science Standards.

Effectively design and supervise school activities (Chaperone, Rube Goldberg, Project Green) and classroom policies.

Track and analyze student activity, provide mentoring and guidance to students and colleagues.

Active participation in continuous improvement and professional development.

STORE ASSISTANT MANAGER at PEP BOYS
Southgate, MI • 1995 to 2000

Enthusiastically supervised and directed 25 staff, maximized customer relations, increase store sales and profits.

Coordinated all daily functions or store operations, store presentation, inventory control and employee training.

OFFICE MANAGER at TIRE DISCOUNT HOUSE
Dearborn Heights, MI • 1994 to 1995

Proficient in accounts payable/receivable, data entry, inventory control and customer relations.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

PLTW CERTIFICATIONS at EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY and SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ypsilanti, MI • July 2009
Cincinnati, OH • July 2012

**Introduction to Engineering
Principles of Engineering**

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE at COLUMBIA CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
Brooklyn, MI ▪ 2005 to present

Collaboratively participated in school improvement meetings, analysis of school data for science department, creation of department goals and objectives, preparation of instruments for collection and data analysis.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER/PARAPROFESSIONAL at BRITTON-MACON SCHOOL DISTRICT
Britton, MI ▪ 2002 to 2004

Interpretation and implementation of teacher lesson plans, enforcement of school and classroom policies, monitor student activity, classroom management and report student successes.

EDUCATION

COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT ENDORSEMENT(SA) at EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Ypsilanti, MI ▪ Endorsement completion estimated December 2021 with MTTC CI Test Passed July 2021

CONTINUING EDUCATION at MARYGROVE COLLEGE
Detroit, MI ▪ May - August 2017 Courses-In the Faces of Poverty and Courage to Care Working

MASTER'S IN EARTH SYSTEM SCIENCE/CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN at MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
Houghton, MI ▪ April 2009

POST-BACCALAURETE COURSEWORK (TEACHING CERTIFICATION) at SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY
Adrian, MI ▪ April 2004
Teaching Certification current until June 2018
Endorsements for grades 6-12: General Science (DX), Biology (DA), Geography (CB)

POST-BACCALAURETE COURSEWORK (TEACHING CERTIFICATION) at SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY
Adrian, MI ▪ April 2004
Teaching Certification current until June 2018
Endorsements for grades 6-12: General Science (DX), Biology (DA), Geography (CB)

BACHELOR OF ARTS at EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY **COURSEWORK**
Ypsilanti, MI ▪ February 1991
Major: Biology Minor: Geography

REFERENCES

Available upon request.



BEACON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Brooke Stidham, Principal
7480 Dan Hoey Road, Dexter, Bldg. B, Michigan 48130
(734) 424-4130 fax (734) 424-4139
stidhamb@dexterschools.org

To: Dexter Board of Education

From: Brooke Stidham

Subject: 2nd Grade Teacher Recommendation, Beacon Elementary

Date: August 26, 2021

As a result of our most recent interview process, we would like to recommend Mrs. Amy Thomas for the position of 2nd Grade teacher at Beacon Elementary. Amy has a passion for Early Childhood Education and Inquiry based teaching and learning. Not only has Amy served as a second grade teacher for 10 years, but she has also been a reading tutor and teacher's assistant for special education students. Through these various roles, Amy has learned unique skills to help each and every student to reach their full potential.

Mrs. Thomas brings a broad range of perspectives and experiences to the classroom. We are confident that Elizabeth would be a great addition to our Beacon staff.

Interview Committee: Brooke Stidham, Laura Ayers, Amanda Carlock, Brook Gillum, Kelli Nowaczck, Heather Green, and Kim Evanski

Amy E. Thomas

Certifications:

Michigan Elementary Teaching Certificate

Endorsements:

- Early Childhood (ZA, 2012)
- Elementary K-5 (All subjects; K-8 Self CC, 2003)
- Language Arts, Grades 6-8 (BX, 2003)

Education:

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI

- Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education ***2013***
- Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, ***2003***
Magna Cum Laude

Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI

- Associate in Technical Studies, ***2001***
Photographic Technology

Teaching Experience:

A2 STEAM, Ann Arbor, MI

2018 – Present

Teacher's Assistant, Y5s - Third

- Assist groups of students with literacy and math skills
- Help implement classroom teacher's project-based learning lesson plans

Carpenter Elementary, Ann Arbor, MI

2017 – 2018

Title I Academic Tutor

- Pushed into classrooms to work with small groups of struggling learners
- Used progress monitoring to determine student strengths and challenges
- Collaborated with other teachers to best meet the needs of all students

Central Academy, Ann Arbor, MI

2006 – 2015

Second Grade Teacher

- Designed hands-on lessons, including math workshop and literacy centers
- Used data to inform instruction
- Taught Inquiry-based lessons utilizing IB Primary Years Programme
- Met with parents, special education teachers, ELL teachers and administration to ensure the success of students
- Made content accessible to bilingual students through varied SIOP teaching methods

Areas of Teaching Proficiency Include:

- Ability to differentiate instruction for all students
- Assessment tools – NWEA, Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessments, DRA, WIDA
- Utilizing the following programs – Everyday Mathematics, Math Connects, EBLI, Raz-Kids, Lexia Core 5, Dreambox
- Integrating technology with a SMART Board
- Creating a classroom community utilizing Responsive Classroom techniques

Related Experience:

Power Standards/Common Core Team, Ann Arbor, MI **2012**

- Compiled Power Standards for Language Arts and Math for Second Grade
- Vertically aligned Power Standards for elementary grades

Atlas Curriculum Mapping, Dearborn, MI
District Map Creation, Social Studies Team **2008 – 2009**

- Created Social Studies curriculum maps for grades K-5

Committees:

- Data Team Leader
- School Improvement Team
- Response to Intervention Team
- Foster Grandparent Coordinator

Professional Development:

- Michigan Virtual
- NVCI certification
- SIOP training
- International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme
- EBLI training
- CHAMPS training
- Guided Reading, Fountas and Pinnell
- Zoo-phonics
- RTI
- Making Meaning
- Lucy Calkins

References:

- **Kelli Nowaczck** [REDACTED]
Elementary Teacher, Dexter Public Schools
- **Amy Straus** [REDACTED]
Education Specialist, Riverside, CA
- **Tamyka Jackson** [REDACTED]
Elementary Teacher, Ann Arbor Public Schools



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stidhamb@dexterschools.org

To: Dexter Board of Education
From: Brooke Stidham
Subject: Kindergarten Teacher Recommendation, Beacon Elementary
Date: August 26, 2021

As a result of our most recent interview process, we would like to recommend Mrs. Brittany Willig for the position of Kindergarten teacher at Beacon Elementary. Brittany has a passion for Early Childhood Education and Social Emotional Learning. Brittany has over 10 years experience delivering innovative, high-quality hands-on learning. Her references share that she creates a positive classroom culture, engages parents in their child's learning journey, and gives students a voice to plan and showcase their learning.

Mrs. Willig brings a broad range of perspectives and experiences to the classroom, having taught in urban school districts, as well as overseas in Germany. Brittany has comprehensive knowledge of the Kindergarten curriculum and instruction for best practices within early childhood education. We are confident that Brittany would be a great addition to our Beacon staff.

Interview Committee: Brooke Stidham, Laura Ayers, Amanda Carlock, Brook Gillum, Kelli Nowaczck, Heather Green, and Kim Evanski

Career Summary

Early Childhood Educator • Kindergarten Teacher

- **An organized, passionate, and hardworking Kindergarten teacher** with 10 years experience delivering innovative, high-quality hands on learning.
- **An excellent parent communicator** who uses the platform ClassDojo to create a positive classroom culture, engage parents in their child's learning journey, and give students a voice to plan and showcase their learning.
- **A highly effective classroom management teacher** with direct experience in working with special needs children, English Language Learners, and children who have undergone trauma. Able to create a classroom culture of respect and responsibility for one's actions by intrinsically motivating students to do their best.
- **A fast learner who takes on new responsibilities and enjoys collaborating with** other early childhood educators on new and innovative best practices through professional development opportunities and grade level meetings.

Areas of Expertise

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| • Early identification and referral of children who need additional assistance | • Comprehensive knowledge of curriculum and instruction for best practices within early childhood education | • Differentiated instruction through daily small group learning opportunities |
| • Provide opportunities for student choice | • Collaborative and productive partnership with parents | • Planning and organizing of curriculum |
| • Well defined classroom management skills (PBIS) | • Organization of learning space | • Design hands on learning games for both reading and math |
| • Social Emotional Learning | • Kindergarten Readiness Assessment Trainer (KRA) | • Design and implement collaborative play opportunities |
| • Technologically Adept | • Assessment | • Intercultural Competence |

Work Experience

August 2017 – present

Kindergarten Teacher at Edison Elementary School (Wayne Westland Community School District) Westland, MI

- Establish a collaborative relationship with parents through regular daily communication using Class Dojo, conferences, and volunteer opportunities.
- Design and implement standard- based weekly lesson plans using a variety of instructional materials, digital content, technology integration, and creative learning activities to support achievement of learning objectives.
- Encourage children to develop self-confidence and a sense of responsibility through teaching social emotional learning opportunities.
- Evaluate performance using formal and informal testing, anecdotal data, and formative assessment.
- Analyze data to create individualized learning plans for each child.
- Organize the physical classroom space to create opportunities for creativity and exploration through hands on learning experiences.
- Work effectively with staff in planning and enhancing curriculum and school objectives.
- Current District Lead Teacher for the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA).
- Participated in the Summer Literacy Bus Program which provided free books and resources to students in the community.

August 2015-August 2017	Kindergarten/1st Grade Teacher at Faxon Academy, Southfield, MI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and implement standards-based weekly lesson plans using a variety of instructional materials, digital content, technology integration, and creative learning activities to support achievement of learning objectives. • Encourage children to develop self-confidence and a sense of responsibility through teaching social emotional learning opportunities. • Evaluate performance using formal and informal testing, anecdotal data, and formative assessment. • Promote and encourage multiculturalism and bilingualism.
September 2014- June 2015	Junior Kindergarten Teacher at Childtime Learning Center, Farmington Hills, MI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design creative, hands-on learning centers that incorporate literacy and math skills appropriate for Kindergarten students. • Establish and enforce rules for behavior, policies, and procedures to maintain order among students. • Monitor and teach students the 6 Critical Learning Skills: self-regulate, follow routines, sustain attention, take different perspectives, follow complex directions, and communicate effectively.
August 2012-August 2014	1st Grade Teacher at Metropolitan International School, Viernheim, Germany <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Cambridge Academy and State of Hessen Academic Standards. • Establish and enforce rules for behavior, policies, and procedures to maintain order among students. • Differentiate instruction and progress monitor students frequently using a variety of assessments. • Promote and encourage multiculturalism and bilingualism.
September 2011-June 2012	Kindergarten Teacher at Abraham Lincoln Elementary School (East Chicago Public Schools), East Chicago, IN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Common Core Standards into the daily curriculum. • Establish and enforce rules for behavior, policies, and procedures to maintain order among students. • Differentiate instruction through RTI and progress monitor students frequently using the DIBELS and Mclass assessment system. • Supporter and active member of the 8-Step Process for School Improvement team as well as PBIS.

Education

August 2016 – August 2018	Master of Science in Early Childhood Education University of Michigan-Dearborn, Dearborn, MI
August 2007– May 2011	Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education Indiana University Bloomington, Bloomington, IN

Certifications

CPR and First Aid Certification
State of Michigan Professional Teaching Certificate with an Early Childhood Endorsement (ZA)

Christine Swanson, Principal, Wildwood Elementary School

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Rosalie Cohen, Retired Principal, Faxon Academy

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Elsbeth Schweitzer, 1st Grade Teacher, Edison Elementary

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Lisa Potvin, Center Director, Childtime Learning Center

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Traci Hogrefe, Supervisor, Metropolitan International School

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Jessica Peters, Principal, Carrie Gosch Early Learning Center

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Mary Ellen Donovan, Retired Teacher, Van Buren Elementary School

[REDACTED]
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