

The experiences I've had while working at Martin Weiss will last a lifetime. Being a new teacher on the campus, definitely came with some uncertainties preparing for a new school. Quickly when I arrived all jitterbugs were soon gone. Having warm and friendly smiles greeting you daily is an awesome feeling to have when arriving at work every day. Expectations are always clear and concise. The knowledge and skills I have gained have equipped me with lifelong tools to be the successful educator I strive to be on a daily basis. Martin Weiss will definitely prepare anyone to bring education into the 21st century.

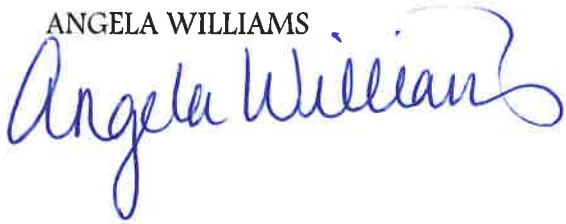
Being Introduced to Project Based Learning has given me a viewpoint, I never would have imagined. PBL brings real-life context and technology to the curriculum in a fun and engaging manner. Students gain so much by participating, and it really helps them grow as leaders. PBL requires students to think outside of the box critically, work independently, and keeps them wanting more. The one to one technology also aids students in becoming well versed. PBL is not just a way of learning; it's a way of working together. PBL truly holds students accountable for their own learning, and in return builds into the future citizens we need. PBL requires students to take responsibility for their own learning. Students form the basis for the way they will work with others as they grow into adults. I found that students reacted very positively to PBL. In implementing PBL, my role as the teacher/instructor really shifted in that I was able to become a facilitator, rather than an answer giver. Although there were some problems within student teams, I found that leadership rose to the top and that the students were able to iron out any issues they had on their own. This was confirmation that the Leader in Me component that is being taught campus wide allows students to really work through their problems and find great solutions.

Data drives instruction at Martin Weiss, which really allows you to be effective and strategic in planning instruction. I'll tell anyone Martin Weiss is an awesome place to work, and an even better place to grow as an educator. Above all everyone is always willing to go the extra mile for the students but also for one another. The professional

8/12/2015 · Dallas ISD

training sought out by administration is always exciting but more important useful to the main goal of raising student achievement. I am truly blessed to have found Martin Weiss, I can't imagine working anywhere else.

ANGELA WILLIAMS

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "A" and a long, sweeping "S" at the end.

My First Year Experience At Martin Weiss Elementary School

My name is Mrs. Carla Cooper, a first year kindergarten teacher at Martin Weiss. My experience at Martin Weiss Elementary has been an exciting and joyful experience! I contribute it to the great students, parents, staff and principal involvement. The leadership team is awesome!! Out of all of my 13 years teaching experience in DISD, this is by far, the best school structured and supportive principal experience I've ever had. I have the tools to do an effective job, I love our students, and they are prepared to learn.

Another attribute I love is that Martin Weiss offers student involvement, such as Project Base Learning (PBL), where students learn by exploration through hands-on interactive learning. I truly believe students learn better when they perceive the hands-on, interactive concept and work in groups. What's so good about it is all grade levels display their projects in the library or gym where parents may view their scholar exhibits. The children really look forward to it as well.

It is my pleasure to share my first year experience at Martin Weiss Elementary School and I look forward to many more years teaching here.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carla Cooper

February 2, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Please allow this letter to serve as a formal recommendation for Martin Weiss Elementary as a school of choice selection. I have functioned as an employee in several capacities at this school for 9 years and I have three children that matriculated at Martin Weiss Elementary.

Throughout the years I have seen a shift in the dynamic of the school. This is definitely a good thing. While the instruction and scores are on the rise, there are also other systems that are being deeply embedded in our students. The principal, counselor, teachers, and staff are teaching with integrity and conviction to ensure that our students are future leaders. This is done daily with the teachings of Stephen Covey's *7 Habits of Healthy Kids*. It is truly a joy to witness the changes that have taken place with our students. Through morning meetings and Leader in Me classes the students understand each habit and what it means to be a leader.

The past year and a half our students have also been introduced to project based learning. In learning through creativity and collaboration our students are excited about every day learning and the projects they get to work on with their friends. They are enjoying school and learning in the process.

The unique energy, passion, and tireless creativity that Martin Weiss Elementary displays through teachings, leadership and socio-emotional skills is derived for students to perform with the best results. With the continued leadership, strong culture, and their proactive involvement of project based learning they are investing in student's bright futures. Martin Weiss Elementary has my highest endorsement in becoming a school of choice. If you have any questions about this recommendation or my endorsement, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will gladly assist in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Graciela Salinas.

November 20, 2015

To The School Choice Committee:

My daughter enrolled at Martin Weiss ES in January of this year, 2015. She previously attended John Neely Bryan ES where she was doing extremely well, and the staff was awesome. When I transferred her to Martin Weiss, I noticed an elevation in her efforts and her thought process. She has had project after project, and it has totally forced her to work harder, as well as think outside the box. She is far more creative than before, and her comprehension is much sharper. When she was in the 3rd grade, due to Project Based Learning, her math assignment turned into a project, based on the expectations from her teacher. She not only had to complete the questions, but she had to explain the way she came to the answers. It was given to her at least 6 weeks prior to the due date, and there was extra tutoring provided for each student before and after school. Not only did they expect her to explain what she had to do, she also had to ensure that the presentation was beyond "just enough". I honestly can't remember her being so engaged and excited about doing homework, but she was. She worked really hard on this assignment and did her finishing touches on Spring Break. Now that she is in the 4th grade, she has really advanced. She became surprisingly enthused about Poetry, and she was even more ecstatic when she was chosen to present her poem in the PBL Showcase for her hard work.

I am a believer that PBL and the Leadership Training that is taught at Martin Weiss is relevant and effective. My daughter was very shy and timid, but she is coming out of her shell, and not afraid to speak up, or speak in front of a group of people. She has learned to research, and take on challenges that used to intimidate her in the past. I think that Martin Weiss Elementary is an exemplary school, and I couldn't have made a better choice for my child. They really dedicate themselves to broadening the horizons of their scholars, and that is to be appreciated, given that they don't have very many resources to work with. The teachers, as well as the leadership team are always going the extra mile, working around the clock, and buying the things, with their own money, that they think that will take their scholars to the next level. This school has had a huge impact on my child's learning.

Tawanna Hawkins

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Tawanna Hawkins', with a stylized, flowing script.