

ST. PATRICK FINE ARTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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UNITING THE ARTS AND GOSPEL VALUES

[REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern:

Mr. Derek Lidstone was an intern teacher at our school from September 6, 2005 until December 22, 2005.

During this time I have had significant opportunity to observe Derek teaching in the classroom, interacting with staff, parents and students and preparing his lessons.

It is without hesitation that I consider Derek one of the most competent, articulate, resourceful, humanitarian educational professional I have ever had the pleasure to work with.

Derek was part of a pilot project between the University of Lethbridge and our school. This pilot project included three intern teachers, three mentor teachers and three professors, one in each of the disciplines of Music, Art and Drama. These nine professionals worked as a collaborative team to integrate the arts into a school setting and the culminating activity was a very successful festival showcase of Alberta's Centennial. Derek eagerly embraced the project and was instrumental in its success. One of the great benefits of the project results in Derek being able to enter into any school setting and understand how to work collaboratively with teachers in any discipline but especially in the arts. This pilot was a far more taxing experience than a traditional internship. It placed additional work and stress on the team necessitating constant communication, collaboration and networking in order to ensure student learning was the center of the project. The net result for Derek was that he developed far more personal and professional skills by participating in this pilot than had he participated in a traditional internship.

Derek is an innovator, a self starter and a true team member. He constantly assesses his situation and initiates activities that focus on improved student learning and team building. Derek is extremely adaptable and has demonstrated this by easily changing his plans as school projects and needs change, even at the last moment.

Derek's personal skills are as significant as his professional skills and with this combination I would not hesitate having Derek as a teacher at our school and would not hesitate recommending Derek to other school administrators.

It would be a pleasure to discuss Derek with you should you have the need.

Sincerely,

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