



DEER LAKES HIGH SCHOOL

163 East Union Road,
Cheswick, PA 15024

Phone: (724) 265-5320
Fax: (724) 265-3970

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with the utmost pleasure that I recommend Tessa Seigworth for a teaching position at your school. As her supervising educator during her student teaching at Deer Lakes High School, I have witnessed firsthand her remarkable abilities and unwavering commitment to her students. One of my favorite quotes about teaching comes from Rita Pierson: "Every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be." To me, that describes the very essence of Tessa, a woman who works diligently to ensure that all children learn, all children feel safe and seen, and that her colleagues, too, feel valued. She will be an asset to any school fortunate to have her on their team.

Tessa created scaffold lessons that were interesting, enriching, and challenging and promoted deep learning. Beginning with clear, attainable objectives, the lessons then focused on student learning-centered activities and concluded with positive feedback. Employing a mixture of formative and summative assessments, student choice boards, and various projects, Tessa created a positive and inclusive learning environment where all students could learn. Whether it was a dystopian unit for grade 10, an APA presentation for AP Language and Composition, or a mythological unit for the seniors, Tessa created intriguing lessons that not only emphasized the reading and writing skills required for the various levels, but also had applications to the real world which made the material meaningful to the students. She is tech-savvy and utilized a myriad of technologies for lessons, planning, and assisting students to meet their educational goals.

Her communication skills are exceptional; Tessa has a natural talent for breaking down complex topics into digestible lessons. She diligently tailors her diverse lesson plans to accommodate various learning styles, ensuring that all students can participate meaningfully in their education. This dedication to inclusivity not only enriches the curriculum but also promotes respect for different perspectives within her classroom. In addition, Tessa wrote multiple emails to parents, keeping them updated on their child's progress. These emails were not only for failing grades but also for small successes and updates for those striving for excellence. One particular email was sent to the mother of a struggling twelfth grader. The parent had been receiving emails about their child's poor attendance and grades from a multitude of teachers. The assignment that changed the student's trajectory in English class was to create a mythological monster and their own creation story for the monster. This child, an avid reader of fantasy, created a wonderful image but also wrote a clear, cohesive story full of imagery and adventure. Not only was the story wonderful, but the student presented it to the class with pride and such joy on their face that I was moved to tears. Tessa emailed this student's mother, probably only one of a very few positive emails, about their child's triumph. The mother was so appreciative to at last have someone reach out and describe the child that she, as a mom, knew was hiding inside. Sadly and quite unexpectedly, the child went home that weekend after visiting with her friends and found her mother had passed away. Tessa reaching out when and how she did had a true, lasting impact on the mother, the child, and the family. That is who this educator is. A loving, considerate, talented woman who truly wants to make a difference in the life of a child and the community.

Tessa's passion for teaching is evident in everything she does. She actively seeks feedback to enhance her methods and is genuinely committed to her students' academic and personal development. Her enthusiasm for education inspires both her students and colleagues to achieve their best. This is why I wholeheartedly endorse Tessa Seigworth as an outstanding educator. Her professionalism, strong interpersonal skills, and commitment to student success will make her a tremendous asset to any educational institution. I have no doubt she will excel in any teaching role.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Mann, EdD
English Department

