

December 15, 2011

RE: Joseph (Joe) Law


To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to heartily recommend Joe Law for your teaching position. He has been my intern since the school year began, and right from the beginning, he exhibited a passion for the calling. Even before we started the school year, Joe helped me move into a new building. Taking initiative is a trait that I found refreshing from the very beginning of the internship whether it was in assisting students, assisting other staff with the new technology, or anything to further the cause of education. Joe stepped right up to help. He adapts to new situations readily and from the start, Joe has been able to maintain the rigor and the pace of our curriculum. He exhibits an understanding of the need for careful unit planning, incorporating new Common Core, and he sees the comprehensive nature of long range goals with a need for short term targets. All in all, I and my students will be sad to see Mr. Law leave our school and classroom.

Although there have been many worrisome changes to education at the state and district level, Joe seems undaunted by negative statements. In the classroom, he has had the opportunity to teach two English 12 college preparatory classes, two English 11 college preparatory classes, and one Prep 11 class which is mostly comprised of students with IEPs and 504s or other special needs. In every way, Joe has considered each class separately in planning for various target goals, but most importantly, for each student's learning. He has employed texts, novels, and plays in his teaching, adhering to Portage Public Schools' rigorous curriculum, and he has woven into his lessons the strong use of technology. We have a brand new school with state of the art technology, and the truth is that I learned from my intern. Using technology to show lessons on the huge screen, he implanted Internet sites and videos and speeches to enhance student learning. We also had the students create their own work and display both written and group (as in Power Point) work to enhance student interest. Joe has many diverse means to include all learners so that all students had numerous opportunities for success.

Finally, Joe has been an active faculty member, participating in all meetings; he attended professional development meetings, too. He assisted in the athletic office. I have seen him interact with all people in the school environment very well. He has clear boundaries with students, yet is still able to develop a healthy rapport with them; consequently, we had no disciplinary issues. Again, I reiterate that Joe Law has shown excellent initiative in my classroom, and he is ready to take on his own classroom. In all sincerity, I can say to you that Joe Law will be an asset to any academic environment. Please feel free to contact me if I have left any concerns unaddressed.

Respectfully,



Helen Wynkoop

English teacher/ELA Team Leader for PPS secondary; phone 269.323.5315/ (Cell) 269.267.0832

