



March 05, 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

It is an honor to recommend Matthew Larson. I have been privileged to have Matthew in several education courses at the University of Mary. He is an outstanding student and leader who truly one of our finest students.

Matthew has strong interpersonal and communication skills. No matter what he is teaching, he is always prepared, enthusiastic and professional. His practicum and student teaching evaluations have been excellent. Colleagues and students appreciate his wonderful sense of humor and his sincere passion for working with teenagers. I observed him teach at Light of Christ Middle School where he demonstrated strong content knowledge, excellent classroom management, and great relationships with students.

There are several characteristics that set Matthew apart from other student teachers. He is truly passionate about teaching social studies and he has a vast array of leadership experiences. He has worked as a youth mentor at Pride, working with individuals with special needs and he has taught faith formation classes at Ascension Catholic Church. Last year I received a call from a principal who was hoping to hire one of our education students to supervise the morning bus route because they were having some behavior issues. Given the early start time and the nature of the job, I did not anticipate anyone would be interested, but Matthew applied and did an outstanding job managing behaviors on the bus. In his typical optimism, he said that he actually enjoyed it and learned a great deal about effectively managing student behavior. Matthew works well with students of all abilities and is gifted at encouraging them to reach a higher level than they thought possible. He is highly intelligent and hard working. He understands the importance of strong relationships and knows that he is teaching students first. Matthew will be there for his students and give them his best every single day. He is an educator who will indeed take responsibility for students' learning and do everything possible to help all of them be successful. His instructional planning is tightly aligned to the standards, and also thoughtfully planned around his students and the best strategies for application and lasting learning.

While at the University of Mary, Matthew has been involved in the Emerging Leaders Academy and the Campus Read Committee. He represented our university well as a student ambassador giving tours to prospective students. He is known for his energy, thoughtfulness, and delightful personality. Despite his many gifts, Matthew is humble and unassuming. He is constantly striving to learn and improve. I have seen him teach an outstanding lesson and then thoughtfully reflect on what he would do next time to strengthen it. He will collaborate well with his colleagues by enthusiastically sharing ideas, being supportive, and being open to trying new strategies and initiatives.

Matthew's rare mix of creativity, intelligence, humor, kindness, and dedication make him a perfect candidate for any school fortunate enough to obtain his services. His morals and integrity are steadfast and his commitment to his faith and serving others are truly inspirational. I confidently recommend Matthew Larson; he will be a phenomenal teacher and role model.

Sincerely,

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