



Mason City Schools
Where each student is important

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello. My name is Arlene Balczo and I've been a teacher at Mason High School for the last 31 years. I am writing this letter to recommend Sydney Bailey as a teacher in your school district. Sydney has been my student teacher this semester and hands down, she's the best student teacher I've ever had.

Sydney is not only quite intelligent, but the following qualities of hers are what I feel make her stand out:

- Sydney's organizational skills and efficiency make her extremely reliable.
- Sydney is creative and inventive. High in her skill-set is her ability to develop engaging lessons that get her students to participate, think, analyze and challenge themselves.
- I feel that Sydney genuinely cares about her students, constantly working to get to know them.
- Personalizing lessons for our diverse group of students is another dynamic strength of hers.
- Sydney builds students' confidence, guiding them towards self-motivation and life-long learning.
- A standout quality of Sydney's is her constant drive to learn. It's refreshing watching her strive to be the best teacher she can be for her students and become actively involved in our school.
 - Currently, Sydney is reading Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain and is participating in a small group book study with Mason's ELL Administrator, Melana Verbanova, MHS Principal, Laura Spitzmueller, two ELL teachers and 4 classroom teachers who have many ELL students in them.
 - Sydney volunteered to work the Language Arts booth at the MCS Scheduling Fair on Feb 6th. She was one of three of us to answer parent and student questions. She spoke non-stop for that hour and a half, answering questions and sharing curriculum information
 - Whenever we have morning staff meetings, Sydney participates in them.
 - Sydney gathered together the 4 other student teachers in our building and organized 4 Q&A sessions for our high school students where they could ask questions about college life and the transition from high school to college.
 - Sydney also did Instructional Rounds here at MHS with Principal, Robyn Jordan, and a handful of other teachers, where she visited 5 different classrooms to observe classroom set up, as well as behavior of students in different environments and teaching strategies.

As you can see, Sydney Bailey is invested in her own growth in order to help her students learn and grow. She speaks informatively, yet comfortably with them. She strives to develop authentic relationships while also pushing her students to participate, analyze, create and find success.

Sydney is ready for her own classroom; she has what it takes to generate a unique, safe, enriching classroom environment. I know you will be proud to call her one of your teachers.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Arlene Balczo
Language Arts Teacher

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