



École Kenwood French Immersion School

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It has been my privilege to mentor Jess Pilya during her student teaching experience at École Kenwood French Immersion School. Our school is an internationally recognized Label FrancEducation accredited, French immersion public magnet school, serving a diverse population that includes a sizable array of ELL students, and special needs students who are main streamed into art classes. Our school has a very active community and one of the top art programs in the district. Ms. Pilya has exceeded the high expectations of our school community in her brief time here and I am enthusiastically recommending to begin her teaching career as an Art Educator in your school.

Ms. Pilya's love of art is evident in her studious curiosity and voracious appetite to learn about all aspects of art making. The same qualities that make her a skilled artist are what make her an exemplary teacher. She is a tenacious, inquisitive, and self-reflective learner with genuine interest in experimentation and reflection to continually improve teaching methodology. She willingly experiments with the delivery of her lesson content and project planning and makes changes accordingly and seems to enjoy the process of iteration in lesson planning, I think her ability to approach her profession in this way ensures that she will easily develop best practices.

Something that immediately struck me about Ms. Pilya was her knowledge in ceramics. She is a skilled ceramic artist and her expertise was extremely valuable in the creation of hand-cut ceramic tiles for the mosaic mural that is in process at my school. When I shared the design problems I was working on Ms. Pilya jumped right in, enthusiastically workshopping with me until we came to a solution to create the most important, central tiles in the mosaic. Her technical skills and deep knowledge were an asset to our community when she willingly stayed several nights after school to help facilitate community clay club with families. She also gave me my first lesson in throwing pottery in our newly acquired pottery wheel. Her generous sharing of her time and knowledge were invaluable to our school. Any community would be lucky to benefit from Ms. Pilya's skills gregarious nature and artistic skill, and I look forward to seeing what she will create in her future teaching position.

In my short time with Ms. Pilya I saw her develop classroom management and pedagogical practices to become accomplished in materials management, curriculum design, and supporting the diverse needs of students. She sets a high standard for herself, resulting in thoroughly researched unit plans with academic rigor and well executed art projects. Her high sense of self-efficacy and her willingness to reflect and revise make her receptive to feedback and enjoyable to mentor.

In my six years serving as cooperating teacher I can say without a doubt that Jess Pilya has been the finest and most capable candidate I have hosted, as well as the hardest working. She is a rising star in art education and I have no doubt that she will become a standout in the field in time. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further assistance.

Respectfully,

Sarah Grosh, MA Ed

Art Educator

École Kenwood French Immersion School

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