



OLD MISSION



PENINSULA SCHOOL

June 21, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to be asked to submit a letter of recommendation for Will Havill. I came to know Will as a student in my Education 101 class Spring semester, 2007. Will's outgoing, straight forward, honest and enthusiastic persona added a great deal of depth, fun and openness to our class, all of which contributed to a deeper understanding for everyone.

As an introductory class, students must spend 30 hours in a classroom observing in several defined areas. They must maintain journals, with a required format, throughout these observations. They must also answer questions related to the class discussions and hand-outs after observing the practical application of these areas in the classroom itself. Will did a great job with this. It was evident as the semester progressed that Will grew in his understanding of the tremendous effort it takes behind the scenes to make one day run smoothly in the classroom. He also grew in his recognition of the minute-by-minute decisions a good teacher makes to keep all students on task, to hold the momentum and interest of the students during both presentation and work time and to smoothly transition students through the daily scheduled activities. His work reflected a new appreciation for the art of teaching; he did SEE the important, yet sometimes subtle, directed effort of the teachers he observed. He GOT it; he has the intuitive and instinctive sense of HOW to teach, which many students simply don't have. I believe this is also something you can't teach or give to another; it must be a part of how they view and manage their world, innately. This is why I believe teaching is truly a "gift", an innate talent that can be finely tuned through training and experience, but must first be present for this training to be effective. I believe Will has this gift.

Will's enthusiasm for working with people, young or old, is exuberant and fun. This is contagious and inspires others to "get excited and get on board". He has this level of enthusiasm when he talks about teaching, as well as when he is in the classroom. Students in Will's classroom will not be able to escape this excitement for teaching and learning. What an exciting atmosphere that will be for learning!

Will's open, sincere, totally honest nature brings group discussions to a new depth. He leads the way in approaching topics with an honesty and sensitivity that often puts him in a seemingly vulnerable position; his confidence is so secure that not only he, but others, become very comfortable with the openness of the discussion, allowing others to open-up more honestly as well. As a result, everyone benefits from a much deeper level of understanding. He adds tremendously to TEAM effort, simply because he is what he is. He has it!

2735 Island View Rd. • Traverse City, MI 49686

Patty Olson, Principal

Will's eagerness to learn himself is another commendable trait. Seeing teaching for the first time through the eyes of a teacher, rather than those of a student, was an eye-opening experience for Will. Having chosen a former teacher of his own to observe, who is a master teacher now teaching TAG students, Will was aware and appropriately in awe of the talent inherent in "good teaching".

Fully understanding the amount of work inherent in this career choice, Will cannot wait to have his own classroom. He wants to make the difference! I'm confident that he "has what it takes" and will commit to the effort it takes to change the lives of the students with whom he will be in contact. I'd love to be able to hire him myself one day.

I recommend him highly as a candidate for your program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty Olson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patty Olson, Principal

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