



Mr. William Haithcock, Principal

May 21, 2019

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of Jessica Neiweem. Mrs. Neiweem has been with Harborside Academy for the past seven years as an English teacher in both tenth and eleventh grade. In all the time that I have known her, she has proven to be an incredibly committed teacher who would do anything for her students or her school.

Jessica Neiweem's overall impact starts where teaching matters the most, in the classroom. Jessica is a dedicated teacher who is organized, hardworking and committed to her profession. She is often here late grading papers and writing feedback for her students. She is also a dedicated worker when it comes to initiatives at the school. She is always a good sport and sees the value in things that our staff is working on. When you ask her for help on a project, she is often excited about the opportunity.

Jessica is also an excellent, excellent lesson planner. She knows what kinds of activities engage high school students. She regularly utilizes strategies and protocols such as debates, Socratic discussions and fish bowls in her teaching. Students enjoy learning in her class because she knows how to pick compelling topics and how to get them engaged in what they are learning. She has high expectations for learning, and every year our students rise to meet those expectations.

In addition to writing great lessons, Jessica is also great at designing assessments. In fact, I would say that there are not many people in this district that have the skill she does to create high quality project based assessments. Her task descriptors and rubrics are clear and professionally created. She knows how to scaffold layers of work so that her students are able to create amazingly high quality work. Work that they are proud of, and work that increases their confidence in themselves as a student.

Jessica is also a great team player. She listens intently, asks great questions and offers timely insight in many different ways. She is also a great team player in that she is willing to do about anything to help students. For example, a couple years ago she came to me because there just was not enough room on the yearbook staff to include all of the interested students. Rather than keep turning kids away, Jessica came up with a plan to start a newspaper class. Many of those students are now writing in her production, vs. in the yearbook room. Both are powerful learning experiences for our students.

For all of these reasons, I ask that you strongly consider Jessica Neiweem as an applicant to your organization. She is professional, smart and hard working. I am confident you will find her to be an excellent addition. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Haithcock".

Bill Haithcock

Harborside Academy Principal