

CENTRAL BUCKS HIGH SCHOOL WEST
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Letter of Recommendation for Alexandra Dyer Davis

It is my pleasure to offer this recommendation in support of Alex Davis's application for the position of secondary teacher in your District. I have been fortunate to interact with Alex on an almost daily basis in her roles as 10th grade Social Studies teacher and as the Sophomore Class Advisor. I remember meeting Alex shortly after she arrived at CB West, and she impressed me as being very intelligent, engaging, and student-centered. My first impressions proved correct, and the more I observed Alex's teaching style and manner with students, I realized that Alex's classroom techniques and educational philosophy rivaled those of some of our most seasoned teachers.

In my role as Guidance Counselor for sophomores this year, I have had to visit Alex's classroom on several occasions in order to observe students. Her classroom was always well-organized, and the daily assignments for each class were clearly posted in a creative and effective manner. She started each class with enthusiasm, not only for the material about to be presented, but for the students themselves – she seemed genuinely excited to be with them for the next 90 minutes! Alex's lessons were extremely well-prepared, and were typically divided into segments including direct instruction, group activities, hands-on learning activities, application of technology, and reflection. There was never a time when students were not busy, engaged, questioning, or learning. The 90 minutes would fly by, and the energy level in the room never waned. When I would meet with students individually in my office to discuss their academics, Alex's students would often comment to me that she "made them think," and that the projects she assigned helped them to understand the context and the "big picture" of the topics they were studying. Alex regularly sought feedback from her students, so as to ensure that she was meeting their needs, and providing instruction in a way that was meaningful and helpful to them.

Whenever Alex and I meet to discuss the progress of students in her class, I can't help but notice how devoted she is to ensuring that each of her students grows as a learner. She will go to whatever lengths are necessary to differentiate instruction, and to provide her students with every tool and resource they need to understand the material, and to demonstrate their knowledge. She will meet students before school, during lunch, and after school if that's the only time the student has for some extra tutoring or for

Recommendation for Alexandra Dyer Davis, page 2 of 2

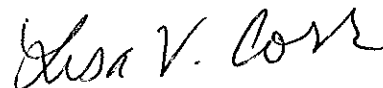
clarification of instruction or directions. While she expects a lot from her students, she is reasonable, fair, and very accommodating when students have circumstances that require special attention. Alex recognizes the potential in each student, and finds unique and creative ways to teach them and tap into their abilities. If students want a teacher who lectures, assigns busy-work for homework, and gives fill-in-the-blank assessments, then Alex is NOT the teacher for them!

Alex has served as the Sophomore House Advisor this year, so as a member of the Sophomore House team, I have also had the pleasure of working with her on some Class of 2017 events. During several summer planning sessions, I could see how Alex's organizational skills, creativity, and get-it-done attitude would serve our House Team extraordinarily well. Our House Principal was new to CB West this year, so Alex was very helpful in "showing him the ropes" and explaining to him how various events were run. Her vision and leadership in this role helped us to spearhead many successful class events so far, including Opening Day Welcoming Activities for the Sophomore Class, the Homecoming Dance, and Class Council elections. With regard to elections, I served on the interview team with Alex. She organized the interviews, developed the questions, and led our discussions when it was time to select our leadership council. Her decision-making skills were sharp, and her observations of the students were accurate and insightful. Her manner with each student was comforting, and she quickly put the nervous candidates at ease with her friendliness, sense of humor, and down-to-earth personality.

It is not often that someone with only about 3.5 years of professional experience demonstrates the level of teaching skills and educational vision that Alex has shown at CB West. Her professionalism, teaching style, commitment to her students, and willingness to learn/grow as an educator are remarkable. In my mind, Alex has "set the bar" for what I expect out of a young teacher. Just as she has at CB West, I am confident that Alex will continue to seek out opportunities to improve herself as an educator, will assume leadership positions to improve her school's culture/community, and will make a significant impact on the lives of every student – and colleague – she encounters.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 267-893-2519 if I may provide any additional information in support Alex's application.

Very truly yours,



Lisa V. Corr
Guidance Coordinator