



BUCKS COUNTY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL
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A campus of Bensalem, Bristol Borough, Bristol Township, Morrisville, Neshaminy & Pennsbury School Districts

Letter of Reference for Alexandra Dyer

It is with pride that I recommend Alexandra Dyer for a Social Studies teaching position in your school district. Ms. Dyer is an extremely driven, hard-working, and engaging teacher who prepares students as 21st century thinkers. As Ms. Dyer's teaching mentor at Bucks County Technical High School, I have seen tremendous growth in her confidence, professionalism, and most importantly her understanding of the *art* of teaching. I have no doubt that she can adeptly meet the challenges presented to her in any secondary school and with any student population. She has repeatedly shown at Bucks County Technical High School that she is profoundly dedicated and responsible well beyond her years.

The students at BCTHS range widely in cognition, socio-economic status, and ethnicity. She has excelled in teaching all of these learners in block scheduling for both 10th grade American History and 9th grade Global Studies. Ms. Dyer consistently grew as she taught an honors class and several inclusion classes. She showed patience, grace and compassion while helping her learners overcome an assortment of challenges. Ms Dyer's exceptional use of technology to engage the multiple intelligences of her 21st century students has paid huge dividends. The students responded positively to the use of Polyvision interactive boards, PowerPoint, web quests and technology-based collaboration as learning tools. These technologies brought new life to many of our students as well as teachers who have observed Alex's successful classroom strategies. Ms. Dyer's student-centered activities were very creative and consistently paralleled Pennsylvania state standards. This young teacher's awareness of multiple intelligences led her to utilize differentiated instruction that showed a great understanding of her students' diverse learning styles. Students and parents considered her use of a teacher web page as a great tool for keeping information accessible at all times. Her use of group e-mails for homework, assignment dates and tests dates proved to be invaluable for student performance. Student grades improved an average of one letter grade because of her on-going communications.

Throughout her student teaching Ms. Dyer consistently demonstrated an understanding of the social studies subject matter and subject-specific pedagogy during her planning. Her lesson plans were inclusive, stimulating and academically challenging. I also observed her actively and affectively engaging all learners in a diverse classroom. I have a tremendous admiration for the manner in which she encourages students to think and develop questions from her lessons. She has an uncanny ability to motivate students to continue to search for answers to these questions at home on their own time. She has also implanted individual confidence in each of these students and shared with them a feeling of success as they reached their learning potential. Her preparedness, rigor, and ability to adapt are only exceeded by her resolve to become a better teacher each day. She strives to develop the best standards-based lessons to reach learning outcomes. These lesson plans are some of

the best I've seen. She has built great student-teacher relationships, and her students have responded positively. Ms. Dyer was exceptional in assessing student learning in multiple ways in order to monitor student learning and assisting her students in understanding their progress. She is acutely aware of how to adjust instructional and assessment strategies during teaching based on understanding her students' needs.

Ms. Dyer is the personification of calmness in tough situations and her classroom management is very strong. Her resolve is something that many of my colleagues have recognized as a great strength. As her mentor, I am proud of her growth not only as a professional, but also as a young woman with integrity. She is the type of teacher that parents wish their kids had each year. This faculty is proud to have had her as a colleague. Ms. Dyer has motivated the staff to become more innovative and brought an infectious spark to our school. We are sad to see her leave. I am excited to use her portfolio and lesson plans after she is gone because of their creativeness, relevance, and innovation. The social studies teachers at Bucks County Technical High School think highly of Ms. Dyer. She has developed many friendships within the department as well as a professional respect from the administration and other faculty.

It is clear to me that this clever, creative young woman, Alexandra Dyer, is an exceptional candidate; one that would greatly contribute to your school. Please be confident that she will be an exceptional teacher. Ms. Dyer will continue to develop as she designs new and engaging lessons, establishes her own teaching style, and reflects on her ability to reach specific learning outcomes. Her rigorous education and individual mentoring from Penn State University has been first rate and has impressed me very much. Ms. Dyer garners my unequivocal recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Yoder', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeffrey Yoder
Social Studies
Bucks County Technical High School