

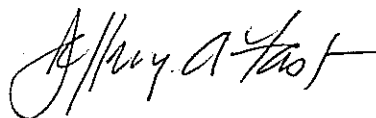
ELIZABETH B. DAVIS

It is a privilege to write in support of Elizabeth Davis. A bright, capable, dedicated, and supportive colleague, she has done superb work in fulfilling a variety of responsibilities here at Belmont Hill School, making meaningful contributions to both students and faculty. While she came to us as Director of Academic Technology, it did not take long for us to discover her collateral talents—as classroom teacher (English 1, Digital Journalism, Digital Video), as mentor to new teachers, as director of both middle and upper school plays, as supervisor to *The Bell*, our middle school student publication, as coordinator of our Poetryfest, a school-wide competition in poetry recitation, as middle school crew coach, and even as manager of the holiday production of the “Facultones,” a musical medley put on by the faculty for the students just before their winter recess.

Liz has invested herself across the board. I have been particularly impressed by her energy, spirit, and skill in working with both students and faculty. She instills a sense of teamwork in every venue. Her rapport with middle school students is a joy to witness; the sparkle in her eye as she shares something new with other department members is another joy; her enthusiasm, good humor, clarity, and poise as she presents innovative teaching devices to the full faculty draws both respect and admiration from us. She is a believer in integrative, project-based teaching and learning. Kids love all her prompts: e.g., vignette podcasts, iMovie book trailers, and video commercials. She is always seeking new applications that will enhance student learning. She brought us iPads and Google Drive and created a website called “Books for Boys.” A believer in fundamentals, she helps kids discover the technologies that strengthen and support their knowledge base.

Most importantly, given her current desire to teach full time, she is a natural with kids, who take to her smiling disposition, sense of integrity, patience, and equanimity. She’s an innovator who loves thinking about new approaches to curriculum. She’s attentive to both individual and collective needs and manages a classroom that is lively, focused, and fun. Just the other day, she shared with department members a technique she had seen at a recent conference: having kids read through a speech in Shakespeare, switching readers at each point of punctuation. She said that this device helps kids “hear” the speeches. The method can involve movement as well. This is the kind fresh approach that excites Liz, excitement that she is then able to transfer to her charges.

In terms of enthusiasm, work ethic, talent and commitment, Elizabeth is tops. I endorse her middle school teaching candidacy wholeheartedly and with the greatest enthusiasm. She’s a delightful, radiant person who shoulders her responsibilities and fulfills every obligation with grace, confidence, and apparent ease. She loves collaboration and will bring everything she has to her adoptive school. Her influence here has been substantial.



Jeffrey A. Fast, Ph. D.
Byrnes Chair in the Humanities
English Department Head (1988-2009)
Curriculum Chair (1992-2007)
Belmont Hill School, Belmont, MA 02478

December 22, 2013