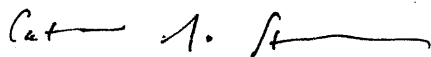


Recommendation for Liz Davis
November 12, 2013

I am writing for Liz Davis, a colleague in the English Department at Belmont Hill School. I have known Liz for six years as both Director of Academic Technology and as an able, strong-willed, independent, and enthusiastic member of our English Department.

Liz has taught seventh grade English as well as an elective for juniors and seniors called Digital Journalism (she also taught Digital Video in the art department). Not originally an English major, Liz worked hard to master our curriculum, including a heavy dose of grammar. I came to respect not only her enthusiasm for the English 1 course, but also her big-picture thinking *about* the course. Liz's motivation and self-confidence make her an impressive teacher, and when you add in her technological expertise she becomes a force for original, creative work in the classroom. Besides implementing a new novel for our seventh graders, Liz created the "Books for Boys" book review website, and has helped other members of our department—and teachers in many other departments—integrate iPads and Google Drive into the curriculum. Liz has supported our department's use of technology in the classroom by assisting various individuals with specific projects and helping to design assignments for multiple classes. She has helped students create video commercials and iMovie book trailers as well as vignette podcasts. She uses, and has helped others use, tools such as Ning and Schoology. Liz was also a dominant force behind our whole school's adoption of Turnitin software, to assist students writing their essay drafts. Obviously her influence has grown well beyond her class, for Liz is an important resource for other teachers and parents alike. When I saw Liz teach Digital Journalism to a class of seniors, she emphasized the expanding definition of literacy made available to them, and by semester's end had each of them working on a variety of projects enabled by technology. She recognizes the importance of collaborative learning in the classroom, and helps both students and teachers move forward in acquiring standards of self-appraisal.

Liz's leadership is at the heart of her endeavors, in and beyond the classroom. As the boys say around here (where sports metaphors abound), she leaves it all on the field. I've watched Liz in various academic settings and have been struck many times by her ability to verbally negotiate and advocate; she's invested in her own performance and in the community's at large. She is a compelling colleague, having influenced teamwork in a positive way within our department. She helped to mentor two new seventh-grade English teachers, for example, meeting regularly to plan curriculum with them. On a personal as well as a professional level, Liz has contributed to our school in significant ways, combining talent, drive and personality. Her wit and wry sense of humor simply add to the package.



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