

HEAD OF SCHOOL

REFERENCE LETTER IN SUPPORT OF LIZ DAVIS

It is with sadness for her departure yet with great respect and support for her next adventure that I offer this letter of enthusiastic support for Liz Davis. For the last six years, Liz has been our energetic and dynamic Director of Academic Technology. This is an immensely challenging and complex position, seemingly changing by the week. But Liz has grabbed the role in her six years here, improved it, and helped our students and especially our faculty navigate through the sometimes choppy seas of academic technology. Whether working with the faculty as a whole, with individual faculty, in classes or out, Liz has moved us forward in myriad ways.

Part of why Liz has been so successful is that she has embraced the technological world of constant change. She not only attends conferences, but she often leads sessions at those conferences, including but hardly limited to NAIS. Indeed, it is testimony to Liz's dedication that last year she was named an NAIS Teacher of the Future for the 2013-2014 school year. Tied to this, Liz has established an impressive network of colleagues, both in the Boston area and around the world.

Yet Liz is not simply a tech guru; rather, she is a dedicated teacher whose heart lies in curriculum development. Indeed, though all of her work with technology, she has consistently reminded us that technology is a means to an end, and the end is good teaching and learning. When she helps faculty find or work with new technology, she keeps this priority clear.

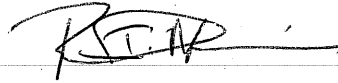
Yet another element of what makes Liz such a good school person is her embracing of the greater good, her dedication to all of the work of the school. In this regard, Liz is far more than a technology expert. She has taught a range of courses including English, Digital Video and Computer Applications, and before she came to Belmont Hill, math; she also has engaged in a remarkable array of other school activities. She has directed or assistant directed two plays a year in recent years; she has been the Middle School faculty advisor for the school paper; she had helped organize our annual Poetry Fest; she has even coached in the Middle School crew program. And, lest it be forgot, she served as chief organizer of the annual faculty holiday show, a labor of love if there ever was one.

Over the years Liz and I have talked several times about next steps for her. She has always seen herself as a teacher, a person dedicated to curriculum development. Her family's decision to have a great adventure and move away from New England represents to me a healthy step for this multi-talented school person who is always ready to keep exploring. It is easy to imagine her thriving in a range of school settings and in a range of positions. I always have admired her

intellect, her energy, her drive and spirit and openness to change. I know she is excited about this step, and I hope you will consider her carefully: she will add greatly, and in many ways, to the school lucky enough to get her next.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can be of further assistance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Melvoin', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Richard I. Melvoin
Head of School