



## **Recommendation for Elizabeth Davis**

December 2, 2013

To Whom it may Concern,

Liz arrived at Belmont Hill over five years ago. She has served first and foremost as the school's Director of Academic Technology, though along the way she has added a myriad of additional responsibilities to her plate. I have worked with Liz in several capacities – the first three years when I was Middle School Director, and the last two-plus years in my capacity as Dean of Faculty, during which I have also served as one of her managers. Through these working relationships, through our personal friendship, and through the search which brought her to Belmont Hill, I feel as though I know Liz quite well.

As Director of Academic Technology, Liz has worked tirelessly to lead and support our faculty. She inherited a group with a blend of willingness and reluctance to the ever-evolving use of classroom technology. She has worked well with the more facile and enthusiastic faculty as they continue to develop the use of technology in their teaching. Perhaps more significantly, Liz never wavers from encouraging and supporting our "unconverted" or less facile teachers, and I think it is these successes in which she takes the most pride. To accomplish these ends Liz regularly presents new ideas to the full faculty, she provides professional development opportunities for groups of teachers (at their respective levels), and most importantly, she is always available to work one-on-one with her colleagues. Liz also led our community into the world of iPads, both as a teaching tool for the full faculty and well as a comprehensive pilot for our seventh graders. In short, Liz has led well and in a variety of ways these past six years.

As Liz and her family move across country, she is focused not on continuing her technology leadership, but instead on her work as a classroom teacher, advisor, and extracurricular leader. It is in these areas that she has developed most significantly these past several years. In the classroom, she has thrown herself into English 1, accepting all the wonders and challenges of working with twelve year-old boys. She cares deeply for this work, in fact, this experience has shaped her current hopes to teach full-time. Liz has provided a voice of both acceptance and change to a curriculum which has served our students well for many years. New lessons, new ideas, and new ways to reach the boys are always at the core of her approach; Liz is always ready and willing to innovate. Most encouraging to me, however, is how she has found a home working with our youngest students. Middle school teachers must enjoy working with middle schoolers, and she does. I am thrilled, and not a bit surprised, to learn of her desire to teach full-time at this level. This is the right spot for her.

Through the years Liz has added a wide range of additional responsibilities beyond technology and English 1. She has taught both Digital Journalism (senior English elective) and Digital Video (arts elective). Our theater program will lose one of its core faculty leaders with her

departure. Within this department she has become a two-season director, working in the fall with our seventh through ninth grade play, and in the winter with our ninth and tenth grade play. Her work in this capacity is very good and getting better. Liz is also fully engaged in Belmont Hill's extracurricular clubs and activities. She leads our Upper School IMPROV group, she is the faculty leader of The Bell, our Middle School newspaper, and she is the Middle School faculty representative to the school's student government. Liz also serves as the faculty leader of our annual Poetryfest, a schoolwide competition in which every student recites a poem to his classmates, with a select group then presenting to the entire school. Two additional areas in which she has been involved through the years have been as Middle School crew coach and as a student advisor (currently a seventh grade advisor). Finally and naturally, Liz is also a leader of the school's Technology Committee. Yes... this is a lot, and it obviously speaks to her range of talents and to her total commitment as a faculty member.

Liz has grown and changed a great deal professionally while at Belmont Hill. She entered as our Director of Academic Technology, focused mostly on leading and supporting our faculty, yet she will leave in June as that and so much more. Along the way she has also discovered where her heart is, which is in teaching. Liz is extremely well prepared and positioned to take on full-time classroom responsibilities, and she is an excellent middle school teaching candidate. Wherever she lands next year, she will quickly meet and excel at her core responsibilities, and she will soon find an even wider array of involvements. Most importantly, she will do all this well, serving the students first and foremost, working collaboratively with her colleagues, and always giving everything she has to her community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Armstrong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "A".

Steve Armstrong  
Dean of Faculty, Assistant Head of School  
Belmont Hill School