

January 20, 2012

To whom it may concern:

I am delighted to provide a recommendation letter for Tracy Andersen, whom I have known since I hired her as a third grade teacher at Meridian Park School. I am currently the Principal of Meridian Park School within the Shoreline School District. Tracy is one of the most well respected staff members in the building and it is clear to me that she would be an asset to any international teaching position. She has the training, the instructional skills, the personal attributes as well as the unending dedication and commitment to do an excellent job. Tracy sets high expectations for her work with her students and she has well-rounded skills in all of the areas crucial to the teaching profession.

Tracy is an instructional leader both in her classroom and with her colleagues. She is one who holds her self and others accountable and regularly uses data and research/best practices to drive her classroom teaching. Throughout her four years at Meridian Park, Tracy has been an asset on the staff. She took the lead on implementing small group reading intervention for her students below grade level. She uses only the most effective and research based instructional techniques skills within the classroom such as GLAD (*Guided Language Acquisition by Design*) strategies for English Language learners and Harvey and Goudvis reading strategies and techniques (Strategies that Work).

Tracy goes above and beyond her duties within the classroom. On a daily basis, she is an advocate for all of her students, a compassionate listener, and a skilled teacher within the classroom and a leader within the school in a variety of arenas. Students come to Tracy's classroom with all levels of need (English Language Learners, students in need of remediation and more) and somehow, in her magic kingdom, Tracy manages to meet the unique needs of so many. Her lessons have clear purpose and are always focused on an academic standard and core learning need. Her lessons are lively, students are engaged and they are constantly pushed to participate and voice their ideas. Tracy's students thrive because she believes in them and keeps the bar high. Tracy also co-leads the school-wide student government (Student Council) that includes helping students to lead all school fundraisers, spirit days and other student-led initiatives. She also leads after school activities that include extra curricular activities such as board games as well as academic tutoring clubs for students who are in need of remediation.

Tracy has a great passion for helping students achieve their goals by building strong relationships with the students and their families. Parents at Meridian Park are always pleased to have Tracy as his or her child's teacher and her reputation among the parent community is strong. I am continually impressed with Tracy's ability to accomplish a wide variety of tasks and tackle any new situation without hesitancy. Over the past two years, she has been a mentor teacher for two student teachers from local universities, written successful grants and served on our Building Leadership Team for a number of years. Her accomplishments are numerous!

Overall, while Tracy has only been at Meridian Park for four years, she has made a huge impact in such a short time. This year, she was nominated for and received a very prestigious award – the **Seahawks/Symetra Heroes in the Classroom Award** for her service as a teacher. Because of this award, our school was able to apply for a \$10,000 grant for an innovative project to increase student achievement. Tracy helped to write the grant and do an evening presentation for this award. Thanks to her work, our school was very fortunate to receive this award. It was a huge accomplishment and I directly link Tracy's hard work to the fact that our school became a recipient of this award.

Overall, Tracy has a positive, professional presence with students, staff and families. She is a fantastic teacher, a creative thinker and a passionate educator. Without a doubt, I highly recommend Tracy for teaching position overseas in any country/ school fortunate to get her. Her heartfelt dedication to the challenging work of education is second to none and she is well prepared for the work of teaching in a new country.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Amy Jessee
Principal