

October, 2017

TO: Whom It May Concern

RE: Katie Foster

It is my pleasure to recommend Katie Foster as both an English teacher and an English language acquisition specialist. As Curriculum Director at NCPA, I have had a number of opportunities to work closely with Katie and serve as her direct supervisor. I am confident that you will find her to be an asset to students in the classroom as well as to the team efforts of your school.

NCPA is a private school committed to both global diversity and academic excellence for our students. We are in our fifth year of existence and serve Chinese National students in grades 7-12 who are acquiring proficiency in the English language while at the same time engaging in AP studies. The school is a language acquisition school and Katie has worked as both a high school English teacher and language acquisition teacher and support specialist. This school year her role is a combination of MS and HS language support in both English and music departments.

In her role as an EAL teacher in an English language acquisition school, Katie has the responsibility and challenge of supporting the diverse needs of all students while coaching teachers to scaffold their teaching so that students can both acquire language *and* perform at high academic levels. It is a challenging environment for both teachers and students and Katie has been able to support both admirably. NCPA is also unique in requiring teachers to report student progress to standards and that shift has been one that Katie has embraced. Having taught in a regular classroom last year, she has practical experience and ideas for the teachers she serves.

As an EAL teacher, Katie's work has included supporting a deep look at the CCSS and other standards as well as the CA English Language Acquisition standards. She has extensive and specialized knowledge in working with language learners and supporting teachers in multiple disciplines to support language learning in their own academic setting. In addition to her own good EAL preparation, Katie has had the opportunity to learn specific and valuable skills in NCPA's World Language Initiative headed by ISS and Dr. Gini Rojas. Katie's learning, dedication, and commitment to student learning has created excellent support for students and her professional learning is actively applied on students' behalf.

Like all NCPA teachers, Katie has additional duties with students in the after-school activities realm. Unlike all other teachers, though, Katie's work is not simply activity-driven, but has been a major project of leading the creation of NCPA yearbook. This role encompasses coordinating students to work with the entire NCPA population, communicating, coordinating and meeting deadlines. Students and adults love yearbooks and have no idea of the real work involved in the creation of a good one!

I believe Katie's teaching and leadership will be an asset to any school looking to foster a fine focus on what matters to improve student learning. I know I am but one of the many advocates you will find for Katie. Your school will gain a thoughtful and dedicated teacher who understands student learning and works to ensure all students receive the best possible classroom and school experience. It has been a pleasure to work with her and I completely recommend her to you.

Warm Regards,

Peggy Smith, Ph.D.

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