



American Academy Casablanca

Excellence and Enjoyment in Education

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REFERENCE FOR: Ms. Laura Keeney

DATE: June, 2013

It gives me pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Laura Keeney. Ms. Keeney and I have worked together at American Academy Casablanca in Casablanca, Morocco for two years. As her principal I have had a very positive experience working with her.

Laura was hired as our K-12 art teacher and soon became one of the best art teachers I have had the pleasure working with over my career. She constantly reflects on her teaching and is able to adjust for the needs of her students. Our school is young and teachers need to be flexible as well as resourceful. Ms. Keeney exemplifies those traits in all she does both in and out of the classroom. She has made a huge impact on our school since the day she arrived!

Teaching children learning English as a second language, as well as children from many different cultures, has given Laura a unique experience as a teacher. Ms. Keeney has challenged herself to meet the needs of her students and continues to search for ways to meet those needs. She is able to adjust her teaching as she delivers a curriculum with U.S. standards. Flexibility is a word we often use as we work overseas and Laura is able to be flexible as well as to hold the standards she has set for herself as a teacher and person.

Ms. Keeney is an art teacher who understands how to integrate the arts into the core curriculum. This is what stands her out as one of the best art teachers I have worked with. She knows the classroom curriculum and plans her lessons around that as well as teams with classroom teachers on projects within units. Her art classes are not a separate class but an integral part of what the children are learning in the classroom.

Ms. Keeney builds community with her students each year. She works very hard to help her children gain respect for one another as well as the different cultures within her classroom. If we believe teachers can change the world, Laura is a teacher who most definitely is changing the world with each of her students.

In addition to her classroom teaching, Laura has been one of the most active teachers with after school activities and programs. She organized our Pinwheels for Peace Program this year that has had a lasting memory with all of us. She has coached many teams and if there is a school dance, talent show, activity, etc. she can always be counted on to support and supervise. She was instrumental in improving our orientation program for new staff and arrived at school early in the year in order to welcome and help the new staff. I couldn't have done it without all she planned and organized! She designed and implemented our student character program that has changed the focus of the school. The character program has a monthly focus and students are eager to practice that month's character trait. Without Laura in charge it would have been one of those programs that falls apart, but she has made it happen! This year our yearbook is one of the best and again Ms. Keeney made that happen. In other words, if there is a need at the school, Laura is a teacher who gets involved rather than complain about what is or isn't.

Laura Keeney is a professional I would want to always have on our school team and as a friend. She is a bright and dependable teacher who is constantly learning herself. Ms Keeney supports her students in all they do and students respond to that support by producing amazing art. She will be missed by students, staff and parents.

You won't want to miss the opportunity to hire this outstanding educator and person!

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