

April 27, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the pleasure of hosting Jordan Caplan as my student teacher for the past fifteen weeks in my first grade classroom. Prior to student teaching, Miss Caplan completed her eighty hours of fieldwork in my classroom as well. During her time, she worked with seventeen six and seven year old students and was responsible for teaching all subjects. She has worked very hard to create positive relationships with all of her students. She has supported not only their academic growth, but their social and emotional growth as well, creating a wonderful rapport with the class.

Miss Caplan has had the experience of teaching one complete math module, using a program that our first grade team is piloting this year, Eureka Math. During this time she has planned and implemented the daily lessons, formative assessment, differentiated learning centers, and homework. Jordan has successfully demonstrated her awareness of different learning styles and has adequately adjusted assignments to meet the varied needs of students. Her lessons were thoroughly prepared and implemented.

Miss Caplan's experience in Language Arts included teaching an Author Study unit in writing. She used this unit as the focus for a pilot program she was asked to implement during her student teaching experience. Jordan took this unit and created four minilessons that involved teaching students how to notice author's craft techniques and how to use some of the author's techniques to improve student writing. The students were asked to complete Quick Write booklets that Miss Caplan created, to show their understanding of the craft techniques they were learning. At the end of the unit, each student selected their favorite Quick Write to share during Author's Celebration. Miss Caplan also supported student differentiation during Reader's Workshop by conferring with students, facilitating Guided Reading groups, completing formative assessments, and coaching reading partnerships. Jordan also taught the minilessons for part of a mixed genre unit. These lessons focused on author's purpose, identifying facts in fiction and nonfiction texts, inferring lessons from stories, and asking and answering questions related to texts. Miss Caplan was also responsible for planning our weekly Shared Reading activities.

I am confident that Miss Caplan will be an asset to any staff that she works with. She is confident, knowledgeable, hard working, and enthusiastic. I believe that she will continue to grow and become even more effective as a teacher with further opportunities. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

Nicole DiGiacomo