

April 28, 2014

I would like to recommend my Virginia Teacher for the Future, Madison King, for the Virginia Beach City Public Schools contract. Ms. King has been working in my first grade classroom since October. During that time I have been impressed with her many talents and skills.

One can be taught the skills of teaching, but having the ability to develop relationships with children is an innate skill. Madison has the ability to form positive relationships with the students while maintaining a professional demeanor. The critical skill of building relationships with students in elementary school is proven by research to be an important factor in children's learning. The students feel comfortable and safe with Ms. King thus allowing her to teach and reinforce skills.

Madison King has demonstrated organizational skills with her well-planned and confidently delivered lessons. One lesson that stands out for me was the one she taught on letter writing. She carefully explained how some children can be really sick and have to stay in the hospital for a long time. Then she had the students write get well notes to some patients at the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters. The lesson was so skillfully presented that the students were excited to participate. This was motivating to me because many of my first graders avoid composition writing as much as possible! By hooking this skill to an important real world example, Ms. King was able to interest the students in doing the work.

Ms. King is very positive with the students. Madison is a highly regarded softball player. She brings her team spirit to the classroom. She ensures that everyone is included and strives to focus on what skills they do well while working on the ones they need to improve. Ms. King is very helpful to me. She volunteers to complete a task for me without being asked. She is punctual and always let me know what her weekly visits with us will be.

As a veteran teacher, I would cherish the opportunity to work with a young teacher like Madison King. It has been my experience that teachers trained by James Madison University, as Madison will be, are excellent teaching candidates. JMU teachers are trained in "best practices" and come into the classroom with confidence and skills to help their students succeed. I have every reason to believe that Madison will graduate from JMU with a combination of her ability to draw students in and best practices tools in her teacher bag. I would truly love to work with Madison King as a colleague.

I highly recommend Madison King for the VBCPS contract awarded to Virginia Teacher's for the Future. Madison King is a wonderful example of student success from the VBCPS system and one who I would be proud to welcome back to the division as an educator.

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