



West Cary Middle School

North Carolina "School of Excellence"

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schools.wcpss.net/westcary/

Principal
Bobby Allen

Assistant Principals
Robert C. Christesen
Connie Wiggins-Price

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in reference to Mr. Brad Zdenek, who was my student teacher and colleague. I understand he has applied for a position with your school system, and all I can say is HIRE HIM QUICKLY! My principal and assistant principal spent Brad's entire tenure as my student teacher trying to get him to accept a position at our school. Unfortunately for us, he wanted to return to Florida.

From the first day he was here in January, Brad both amazed and impressed me in many ways. I have been teaching for thirteen years and I still think of myself as enthusiastic and energetic - until I met "Mr. Z." He wanted to and was ready to start teaching immediately. After only observing me for a few days, he began his own lessons and my students' world changed forever! I will never forget him standing on my stool at the front of my room- on one foot-to make a point. Or the time he wore a traditional Indian villager's outfit- complete with bare feet -all day when we were studying India. Yes, he got their attention! He motivated them, he inspired them, and he challenged them to do their best. He was fair and had the highest of expectations for all of the students he taught.

Probably the most impressive part about Mr. Zdenek was his knowledge of the subject matter. He either knows an incredible amount about the Eastern Hemisphere or he studied for hours every night to prepare for the next day's lessons; perhaps a little of both. The outcome was that he covered the curriculum and covered it with a combination of facts, details, stories, hands-on activities, projects, research, group work, and just about any other teaching style you could ask to find in an *experienced* teacher's classroom.

Last, but certainly not least, is Mr. Zdenek's character. He was the consummate professional in every way. He volunteered to help the healthful living teacher on my team who just so happened to be the girls' basketball coach - when her scorekeeper quit. He went to every basketball game, both home and away, to help her. This often meant getting home late and still having lessons to do and papers to grade. He also helped our computer resource teacher after school with troubleshooting and loading software, all on his own time and in addition to teaching all day. Our entire faculty just thought he was a terrific young man and I was very proud of him. I would like to take credit for all of the wonderful things he did and for the excellent job he did, but the truth is, I was humbled by his experience here. You would do well to have him in your school system, because his students would benefit beyond words.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Hayes".

Laurie Hayes
West Cary Middle School