



BROOKLYN COLLABORATIVE

A NYC Outward Bound School

May 1, 2017

To whom it may concern,

I am writing with a full recommendation for Martha St-Jean in a teaching position as a Special Educator. She has successfully completed her minor placement Residency with me at Brooklyn School for Collaborative Studies. Martha spent the past 8 months, one day per week, observing, assisting and teaching in my Chemistry and Physics ICT classes, as well as in an 11th grade Crew. Our school is a member of the Consortium and an NYC Outward Bound School, where our curriculum is structured with depth in the form of Expeditions and Case Studies. Our school population is diverse, with 33% of our students having an IEP, 69% receiving Free or Reduced Lunch and a small ELL cohort of predominantly Spanish-speakers.

Martha's warm personality and rapport with the students was evident from early on and only grew stronger over time. Her confidence and assertiveness created trust among students and they were able to comfortably go to her with questions regarding both academic and personal inquiries. Martha's willingness to take suggestions, modify lessons, and experiment with new strategies demonstrated her motivation and reflection about teaching and learning.

Martha was able to communicate effectively and she displayed many fine personal and professional qualities normally attributed to outstanding teachers. She carried out her responsibilities in a professional, dependable and meticulous manner and was eager to join in on after-school Professional Development sessions where she actively participated in listening circles and small-group discussions.

In my opinion, as a classroom teacher, Martha is an excellent candidate for your school. She has tremendous initiative, a desire to continue to learn and a reflective practitioner outlook. With her command of a classroom and effective teaching strategies, students of all learning levels are destined to find success with Martha as their teacher. I would strongly encourage you to interview and give serious consideration to this prospective teacher. She would be an asset to any school community.

Sincerely,
Brittany Loomis

Scill Chan / Amanda Boege / Imani Matthews
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May 2, 2017

To whom this may concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Martha St. Jean for the role of Classroom Teacher in a 7-12 NYC public school for the upcoming 2017-2018 academic year.

Martha is currently enrolled in the Teaching Residency at Teachers College program and is working towards a Masters degree in Secondary Inclusive Education. As her Mentor Teacher, I have had the privilege to work with Martha throughout this academic year in a variety of instructional spaces at my school, Evergreen Middle School for Urban Exploration. Evergreen is located in Bushwick, Brooklyn and celebrates a diverse population of which 95% receive free or reduced lunch, 26% are identified with Individualized Education Programs and 25% receive English as a New Language supports. She has assumed an active role in both the 7th grade English Language Arts and 6th grade Science co-taught settings. In addition, since the start of the year, she has independently developed and implemented reading intervention and instruction for a group of eight students from mixed grade levels. Martha has consistently honored and built upon our community's existing commitments to equity and access for all learners. Her work demonstrates a genuine dedication to the well-being and success of all students and reflects high expectations for all learners.

Martha's high level of professionalism is evident in her daily verbal and written interactions with collaborating teachers, school staff, and administrators. She has been able to effectively maintain all classroom procedures and to negotiate management of student behavior in the context of a classroom with multiple teachers and service providers. Martha's instructional planning, primarily in the 7th grade ELA co-taught setting, reflects a depth of knowledge in the content area, as well as effective use of available tools and resources and continued growth as an educator. Throughout the year, Martha has engaged in regular self-reflection and has effectively refined her practice through the implementation of given feedback.

Martha's strengths in developing and maintaining positive relationships with students and colleagues make her an ideal candidate for a classroom teacher role. She actively seeks out opportunities to engage with students in meaningful and personal ways; including arriving early to check-in during breakfast, facilitating a weekly student group called "Middle School Musings" focused on goal-setting, and providing academic and socio-emotional support to struggling students during lunch. Her strategic use of higher-order questioning and academic language helps to establish a culture of learning and to communicate high expectations to students.

Martha brings a genuine kindness and compassion to this work and is a strong advocate for students. I highly recommend her for the position of classroom teacher in the 7-12 level. She will undoubtedly be a highly effective educator and will add tremendous value to any learning community she joins.

Sincerely,

Olivia Drabczyk
Special Educator
Evergreen Middle School for Urban Exploration