

May 10, 2017

Re: Olivia Santoro's Letter of Recommendation

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Olivia Santoro and her future endeavors as an elementary school teacher.

I was lucky enough to host Olivia in my third grade classroom for her second practicum placement. Olivia was one of my most dedicated practicum students and the best practicum student I have ever had. From the very moment she walked in the door, she had a smile and an eagerness to learn. On her first day, she walked around and introduced herself to all of the students and the staff. She became a familiar and friendly face from the start.

Olivia had a great understanding of the third grade learning standards. Olivia CONSTANTLY walked around the room, checked in with students, and used proximity to keep students on track. Olivia did not need to be reminded or asked to help students; she used their non-verbal (and sometimes verbal) cues to know when they needed help or support during a whole group lesson. Olivia used responsive Classroom language while speaking to students; holding high expectations but also showing the students she was a trusted adult who cared for them and their feelings and needs. Within days, I gave Olivia several tasks such as guided reading groups, looking over homework assignments, teaching math lessons, and giving spelling tests. Olivia handled and planned for these tasks with ease. Olivia was always eager to take on more and be actively involved in every lesson throughout the day. It was so refreshing to have her constant support.

Student engagement was very important to Olivia and it was apparent in all of her lesson plans. She planned and organized meaningful and educational lessons for the students based on their needs and their current interests. She went the "extra mile" and did not just stick to the common core module lessons. She added supplemental resources to heighten their engagement and interest.

Olivia's professionalism with staff and students was exceptional. Olivia came to school on time (often early) and dressed comfortably and professionally. She never left without asking how she could help or if I had anything for her to do.

Olivia was not afraid to ask questions and was very involved in common planning times, IEP/Section 504 meetings, and after school events and concerts. It was extremely apparent that Olivia spent most of her time outside of the classroom preparing for or supporting us here at Randall.

As a current educator, I could not be happier that Olivia is joining the field of education. Olivia is a fantastic individual and an even better teacher. She is so invested in her teaching career, and it was apparent when she came to my classroom every single day.

Olivia would be a fantastic asset to any school district or graduate school program because of her hard work and dedication to the education field. Without hesitation, I recommend her for your program.

Best,

Emily Stevens



Grade 3, Randall Elementary School

estevens@cortlandschools.org