



GREENVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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To Whom It May Concern:

Miss Olivia Stone's student teaching experience took place in a heterogeneously grouped third grade classroom of varying learning abilities in Greenville, PA. Math, ELA, social studies and cursive were the subjects she taught. The students ranged from learning support children to gifted students.

Miss Stone planned creative lessons that were thorough and went beyond the text materials. All her lessons were driven by the Pennsylvania State Standards, students' educational needs, as well as students' knowledge and interests. She was always prepared well in advance. The lesson plans were written so that modifications and enrichment activities could be used for individual students. She used a variety of teaching techniques and materials to make the learning environment fun. She successfully individualized the ELA lessons by teaching three reading groups simultaneously. She went beyond the basal reader requirements by incorporating Guided Reading, a unit plan using a trade book, and process writing. For math, she successfully taught a unit on division and a unit on fractions. The CRA model was implemented to introduce and teach the concepts. For social studies, she taught a unit about Native American cultures and regions. As a culminating activity, the students enjoyed making dream catchers and wrote their own legends. Finally, she successfully taught a reading flex group and a math flex group. The learning groups were formed by using the learning needs of each student.

Olivia employed effective classroom management, which fostered students' self-discipline and independence, as well as students' time on task. She did an excellent job of using many of the components of Responsive Classroom to maintain a sense of community in the classroom. Positive rapport with the staff and students was demonstrated.

Miss Stone showed a strong interest in professional growth. She read about the Foundations program and the Responsive Classroom program. In addition, she integrated the Smart Board, Padlet, Plickers, and the Google Classroom as teaching tools in her lessons. Miss Stone went beyond the student teaching requirements by volunteering to be part of the One School, One Book school wide initiative.

In my professional opinion, Miss Olivia Stone stood out as an outstanding new teacher. She demonstrated skills that a seasoned teacher demonstrates. She displayed the enthusiasm, independent thinking, knowledge, and organizational skills necessary to be a wonderful educator. It was a pleasure working with such a mature, hard-working individual. I highly recommend her for a teaching position.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Besic (cooperating teacher)