

To whom it may concern,

June 29, 2022

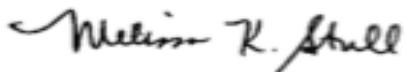
I highly recommend Ms. Maya Gompper for a teaching position in your school. I have been fortunate to get to know her well through an education course I taught and most significantly as her field instructor. Fortunately, I was able to continue to see Ms. Gompper regularly this past year, as she was hired by the school where she student taught (an honor in and of itself!) and where I worked with other student teachers. Of her many strengths, what stands out is the priority she places on understanding students and their families and her ability to use this knowledge to create thoughtful, engaging units of instruction.

Foremost, Ms. Gompper ensures that every child in her classroom, regardless of their academic and personal background, experiences success. She connects well with students and families of all backgrounds and has had a range of experiences working with young people, as her resume attests. While many of the beginning teachers with whom I have worked are hesitant to reach out to families, Ms. Gompper sees this as integral to being a successful teacher and she has made this a regular part of her practice.

What makes Ms. Gompper particularly impressive is her ability to apply her understanding of students and the content to the creation of instructional units that build upon students' interests while holding them to high expectations. For example, she created a project-based, integrated unit for her first graders that centered on using their voices to create change in the community. Ms. Gompper began the unit with an authentic problem – the school garden had been neglected and had fallen into disrepair. She led students through a series of lessons about what community means, how young citizens can use their voice and power, what plants need to survive and thrive, and what it means to collaborate and work with the community. In addition to improving the garden itself, the work the class did in this unit inspired other teachers and students in the school to become more involved in the school garden. In a classroom of students often overlooked and underserved in our schools, what Ms. Gompper did through these activities was both educationally and personally empowering for the students.

Ms. Gompper is a professional in every way. She works collaboratively with colleagues, utilizes culturally responsive practices, and continually works to improve her own instructional competence. As a teacher with over ten years of experience working with underserved populations, I can attest to her strengths for a teaching position in such a setting. She will be an excellent addition to your teaching staff.

Sincerely,



Melissa K. Stull, Ph.D.
Instructor, School of Education