



## Erickson Elementary School

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Kelly Mickel



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To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Ms. Maya Gompper, second grade teacher at Erickson Elementary in Ypsilanti, MI. I highly and sincerely recommend her for a teaching position at your school.

Ms. Gompper's classroom is directly across the hallway from mine, and I have known her to be an amazing and successful teacher in countless ways. She has shown great dedication, tenacity, and flexibility. In addition to witnessing her teaching skills as a coworker, I also had the pleasure of hosting her as an intern during the height of the Covid19 pandemic. Because of her variety of experiences, she is especially prepared to be successful as a teacher in any location or position. Ms. Gompper displays a willingness to go above and beyond to ensure her lessons are meaningful and successful. She shows a positive initiative in learning about various technologies that work best with an online teaching platform. When teaching in person, she utilizes a variety of techniques to manage her classroom to ensure students are engaged in learning .

One of Ms. Gompper's most favorable attributes is her tenacity in fully knowing her students and building relationships with families. She participates in multiple home visits to her students' families. She makes an effort to frequently communicate with families in a variety of ways. Her knowledge of her students and connections with families helps her to ensure learning is accessible to all while aiding her in the creation of engaging and interesting lessons. Building relationships is important to Ms. Gompper and it enhances her practice in all aspects.

Ms. Gompper's dedication to her relationship-building helps her practice to be more culturally responsive. Her dedication in visiting each student helped her to better understand her students' community and daily life. She makes an effort to inform herself about the current condition as well as the history of the area where her students live. Because of this, she is able to be mindful during the creation of her lessons as she continually considers her students.

The most powerful, positive and ongoing impact Ms. Gompper made on our school was due to a cross-curricular project-based unit that she designed. Students learned how their power and voice can positively impact their community. Ms. Gompper guided students and facilitated the project that led to the full rebuilding of our school garden boxes as well as the beginning of a community garden. Ms. Gompper's internship at our school has helped students recognize their power as well as provide an authentic purpose to build social and academic skills. The gardens continue to be used by the entire school as well as the surrounding community.

Ms. Gompper has continued to grow and develop her classroom and behavior management skills. Educating virtually required teaching completely new expectations and routines, and then modifying these as she taught students in person. Teaching students face-to-face during a pandemic demands strong classroom management skills in order to keep students safe and healthy. Her close connections with students helps her to be preemptive when behavior issues arise. Ms. Gompper includes a variety of rituals and routines guided by Conscience Discipline in order to create a safe learning environment. Her calm and kind nature combined with firm expectations helps her students and families feel secure throughout the school year.

I truly hope you will seriously consider hiring Ms. Gompper for a teaching position. I am pleased to recommend her for any position in your district. Your entire school community will certainly benefit.

Sincerely,

Angela M. Creech  
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