

To Whom it May Concern:

April 2013

I am writing this letter to recommend Ashley Mathews for an elementary teaching position at your campus. I have had the pleasure to work alongside Ashley for the last two years as the math instructional coach at Dellview, where Ashley currently teaches 4th grade.

The moment you walk into Ashley's classroom, you can tell that this is a classroom where children come to school each day and have a great time learning. Her classroom is arranged thoughtfully in cooperative groups to facilitate peer-to-peer academic interactions. Her walls are covered with anchor charts that give testimony to the great lessons that the class has experienced together. Her materials are very well-organized that she can maximize student time on task.

I remember the first time I walked into Ashley's classroom; I could hardly believe that this was the classroom of a first-year teacher. Most first-year teachers struggle with classroom management but Ashley did not and does not. She has very clear expectations for her students' behavior – both social and academic – and her students rise to meet her expectations. She has a great rapport with them and they love her and in turn work hard to please her.

She is a very dedicated and thoughtful teacher. She takes pride in her work and is a leader in all of our planning sessions, even though she is the youngest teacher there. She is very open to ideas but is adamant to understand the “why” behind instructional decisions. Not to mention, she is a technology whiz kid and always types in all of the plans for her entire team.

As a math coach, I try to split my time equally between the 4th grade math classrooms, but it seems like there is a magnet drawing me to Ashley's room some days. It is always such an energetic and student-centered place to be that that is where I want to be. She is always looking for creative ways to teach her students and is determined to help her students understand the “why” behind the mathematical concepts we are studying.

Dellview is very lucky to have Ashley as part of our team. She is a great addition to our faculty and will be a welcome addition to your school.

Respectfully,

Wendy Castillo

Math Instructional Coach

Dellview Elementary