

Chevy Chase Elementary School

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May 6, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with bittersweet emotions but with high praise that I write a letter of recommendation for Ms. Katie Nimitarnun as a candidate for a teacher position. I am sad to lose such a dedicated and highly effective classroom teacher like Ms. Nimitarnun.

Katie Nimitarnun is a truly outstanding teacher who is a team player, a leader, and a champion of teaching, learning, literature, and creative thinking. As a reading/language arts teacher, she is passionate about making learning meaningful, motivational, and fun for her students.

Her classroom is a place where children feel free to take risks, learn from each other, and where each takes part in learning. Any time you enter her room you'll see an active learning environment where all students are meaningfully engaged. She constantly incorporates interesting literature project such as the original play project where students have creative writing choices such as a superhero story, a remix of a fairy tale pre or epilogue of a fairy tale, or a children's book. In addition, every lesson is infused with technology and innovative strategies. The students enjoy the freedom to choose their learning activity, and the rigor of the projects challenges them to push themselves to meet their full potential.

Literature discussions in her room are in depth and focuses as she motivates her students to take ownership of their learning and to fully understand the complexities of all types of text. Her use of strategies that foster children's critical thinking about problems and strategies ensures that they have a deep understanding of content. She strives to help them make text connections as she works with teachers in other subject areas to integrate lessons and reinforce learning across the curriculum.

Not only does she continuously monitor student achievement through anecdotal records, observations, formative and summative assessments, but she asks that each child keep track of his or her strengths and gains through the use of data notebooks, performance projects and portfolios.

Ms. Nimitarnun demonstrates for her students and colleagues her devotion to lifelong learning as she continues to take classes and attend conferences in order to keep abreast of the latest research in best teaching practices. She has stepped forth as a leader in her school community by acting as a team leader and by presenting her teaching

strategies at school and state technology, gifted learner, and leadership workshops. Not only is she a leader, but she helps to maintain a positive team environment among her colleagues by planning and facilitating in school and after school activities that allow students from different classes to work together.

Her students see her as a role model with whom they trust and admire. She committed to their academic, social, and behavioral progress and is always there when they need someone to listen to problems or to give extra help at recess with skills they haven't mastered. There is rarely a day when she doesn't give up her planning time in order to assist a child. Her continuous and ongoing communication with parents and others who work with her students during their school day has created a positive team working environment among all members of each student's learning team.

For all those reasons and more I give Ms. Nimitarnun my highest recommendation. She is the type of master teacher that you do not often come by and never want to lose. Should you choose to hire her at your school I hope that you will take good care of her and appreciate her natural gifts and talents as much as we have at Chevy Chase Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Jody L. Smith, Principal
Chevy Chase Elementary School