

# Katie L. Nimitarnun

1328 West Valerio Street Santa Barbara,, CA 93101| 714-310-6574 | [knimi2@gmail.com](mailto:knimi2@gmail.com)

**January 18, 2018**

Dear Selection Committee,

I am grateful for the opportunity to share a little about my history, qualifications, and overall joy for teaching and learning, so thank you for your consideration. I am currently a sixth grade teacher at Montecito Union School in Santa Barbara, California, where I have been teaching for the past three years. This will be my twelfth year teaching and I can say that I am still an active learner in the area of education. I am so inspired by the day to day work I do with the students, but I am also curious and ignited by the role education has for society as a whole. So, as I would hope for my students, I am in constant pursuit of knowing more. In fact, I was able to complete my masters degree in 2016, while also attending Harvard University's summer institute, Project Zero. Prior to this experience, I was a third grade teacher and a fifth grade reading teacher at Chevy Chase Elementary School in Montgomery County, Maryland, where I had been teaching for the six years. I am currently working toward finding a school that supports our profession's pursuit for knowledge and refinement through continuous professional discussions and training. Also, it is always so inspiring to work with staff and students that share a passion and commitment to student achievement. I am hoping for an opportunity to do so with your school.

In my current position as a Montecito Union School sixth grade teacher, I have made a commitment to be an active member and stakeholder in our community. I am an active liaison and leader of our school's teachers' union, participate as a staff representative for our school's facilities and inclusion committees and work collaboratively with the literacy committee to meet the needs of our school in regards to language arts. As a close team of four sixth grade teachers, we collaborate to create a balanced literacy approach for english/language arts, integrate projects that serve as a platform for utilizing critical thinking skills and dispositions, and create an overall atmosphere and experience for students where high expectations, discourse, and confidence is fostered and appreciated. Just as the students' talents and strengths are able to shine through in the classroom, Montecito Union has allowed me to pursue my passion, reading and language arts. I was able to not only take risks and share my passion with others, but I was able to use an approach that utilizes research based methods and established reading philosophies. This is work that drives me so much, that I have spent most of my twelve teaching years reading, studying, and collaborating so that my own teaching practices and the practices of others are constantly being refined and working towards meeting the needs of all learners.

I have students with a wide range of social and academic needs, including English language learners, students working at an academic level more than two years below, and students with emotional and social challenges, I also have a large population of high achieving students working up to two years above grade level. Prior to teaching sixth grade, I have taught fifth grade reading and spent five years as a third grade teacher integrating all content areas through a common core curriculum. I have had the fortunate experience of having spent twelve years, teaching in school communities which embody a standard of excellence in teachers, students, and parents, specifically through empowerment, meaningful work, collaboration, and perseverance has paved a path for myself that not only prepares me to set high expectations for my students, but for myself, my colleagues, and the parent community.

The opportunity to share my commitments to education, my ability to accommodate for all students' needs, and the passion I have for teaching and learning would be a great honor.

**Sincerely,**

**Katie L. Nimitarnun, M.A. Ed.**