



THE NEW HORIZONS SCHOOL

February 23, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter of reference to offer support in your consideration of Ms. Alison Schorsch as an art teacher for your school. Ms. Schorsch has worked for the past year and a half for two programs in our school: The School of Opportunity and The New Horizons School. Ms. Schorsch has proven herself as a very good teacher during her tenure, one who will be difficult to replace.

To understand fully Ms. Schorsch's capabilities, it is beneficial to understand first the population for which she served, and second her skills as an art teacher. The New Horizons School is an alternative school, located within a richly diverse community, designed to reach students who have been unsuccessful or who have not integrated well in a traditional school, whether it is for poor attendance, inappropriate behavior, low academic skills, or family concerns. The goal of The School of Opportunity is to remediate students with severe behavioral needs who are not classified as special education, but who are habitually disruptive or defiant. When students complete the program, they will have acquired positive social skills and will have addressed lacking academic skills so they can succeed in their home schools.

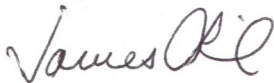
Ms. Schorsch was able to begin teaching in these environments midyear, establish her classroom environment and expectations, and impress among the students the difference between art and crafts. As a rule, alternative education students do not accept change easily, yet Ms. Schorsch was able to establish her expectations with her students.

Ms. Schorsch plans her lessons well. She not only writes her lesson objective for the students, but also explains the objective. She asks her students higher-level questions, always trying to have them think at a deeper, more critical level. Students who were reluctant learners soon became thoughtful artists. Students learn to assess their own work long before she assesses their final projects.

Ms. Schorsch has also involved herself in our community. Goodwill had planned to open a store near our school and wanted to create a section for students. Alison worked with Goodwill so that several of her art students under her supervision were able to complete a mural in the store. Goodwill so appreciated the help that they donated a significant amount of money to the school.

I appreciate all that Ms. Schorsch has brought to our school. If she were not relocating, she would continue to have a place on our faculty. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me. My office number is 719-579-2601.

Sincerely,



James A. Reid
Principal