



FOSSIL RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

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Once, Always at The Ridge

March 28th, 2019

Dear Principal or Hiring Official:

I am pleased to write to you about my experience with Miss Samantha (Sami) Auster and her qualifications as an art instructor. My name is Karen Lemmon, and I am the Art Department Leader at Fossil Ridge High School in Ft. Collins, Colorado. Miss Auster student taught with me during the spring semester of 2019 where she worked with my Pottery and Advanced Drawing students. Additionally, Miss Auster completed a practicum with one of my Pottery classes in the Fall of 2018.

I was immediately impressed with Sami's warmth and enthusiasm. She consistently made a point to meet as many students and fellow teachers as possible. Any time she had the opportunity to make a connection with another person, she took it. This warmth is indicative of the value she places on relationships and creating a positive environment for all around her. Students connected with her and enjoyed working with her. There were more than a few students who confided in Miss Auster with their personal concerns and struggles. Additionally, Sami was incredibly eager to learn as much as she could from each experience, whether it was something concerning developing curriculum, running and managing the studio equipment, or dealing with student discipline. I appreciated her desire to do well and to improve in every area.

Sami is very reflective. Every time I gave her a suggestion, it was immediately implemented. She asked questions to improve her skills, and never took feedback personally. This is a quality that many people claim to have, but don't. Because of her skill in receiving feedback and adjusting her practice, I think she will be able to navigate the many changes that occur within education during a teaching career. Additionally, it will help her sail through those first three years of teaching that can be so overwhelming, as well as helping her to continue to grow as a master teacher later in her profession.

One way that Sami really stood out was in the way that she worked with our Special Needs students. These students have varying levels of cognitive and physical challenges that significantly change the way that they interact with art materials as well as their peers. Sami connected with these students as easily and effortlessly as she did with any other student. She adapted lessons to meet their needs and worked with them to help them create successful projects. There was more than one occasion where Sami was able to successfully de-escalate a potentially difficult situation with a student of ours who is prone to emotional outbursts when stressed. Her poise and professionalism combined with her compassion helped the student to re-focus and remain in the class.

Sami is very excited to begin her teaching career, and I feel that she will be a positive addition to your educational organization. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I may be reached at klemmon@psdschools.org or (970)988-1669.

Sincerely,

Karen Lemmon

Karen Lemmon Art Department Leader
Fossil Ridge High School