

View Ridge Middle School

Ridgefield School District
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Tony Smith, Principal
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To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter of reference for Angie Hood, who currently teaches math under my supervision at View Ridge Middle School in Ridgefield School District. In her time at our school, her deep understanding of mathematical concepts, commitment to continuous improvement, and contributions to our school-wide efforts have stood out as strengths.

Angie's deep understanding of math impressed me from the time I interviewed her for the job. As she discussed math instruction and demonstrated a lesson, I knew this was a person who not only knew how to do the math, but also understood the underpinnings and interrelationships between concepts. In watching her teach, work with students one on one, and collaborate with colleagues, this has been an observable strength. She is able to explain not just the how, but the why, and how those things relate to one another. She has a feel for pre-requisite skills, and appropriate next steps in a learning progression.

Angie has also impressed me in her ardent commitment to improving her practice. She is open to feedback, follows through on recommendations, and pursues professional enhancement with great effort. Over the course of this year, adjusting to a transition from high school to middle school, she has implemented a number of effective strategies to improve the engagement of her students. She has pursued several online classes addressing specific areas of focus she has identified, and actively sought collegial feedback and consultation for how to be more effective. I have seen the level of structure and intentionality in her classroom grow over the course of the year as a result. Angie is a humble, hard-working professional who wants to get better at what she does, whatever it takes.

Finally, Angie has worked to be a contributing member of our staff who participates in school-wide initiatives. We are a school who adheres strongly to the Professional Learning Communities model for collaboration, and she has been an active part of her math team, clarifying learning, developing assessments, reviewing data, and developing intervention approaches. She has been a part of a co-teaching team with a special education teacher, creating a more inclusive experience in general education classes for students with disabilities. She facilitated our after school math tutoring program, and served on our Habits of Successful High Schoolers team. In any building-level professional development activities, she was usually one of the first to sign up, as is the case with a current non-fiction reading book study we are conducting. She not only wants to get better in her classroom, but contribute to the whole school being better.

In hiring Angie, you will be getting a committed teacher with strong content understanding and a commitment to improvement. Please feel free to contact me if you would like further elaboration on her work under my supervision.

Sincerely,



Tony Smith
Principal

Mission

Together, View Ridge prepares all students for high school and beyond by ensuring high levels of character development and academic achievement.