



HARBOR CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT

6375 Buffalo Road, Harborcreek, Pennsylvania 16421-1632
www.hcsd.iu5.org

February 7, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

During the first semester of the 2010-2011 school year, I had to opportunity to work with Mrs. Jennifer Penfield. In my position as Learning Support teacher, I worked with Mrs. Penfield on a daily basis to coordinate services for my students in fifth grade.

Mrs. Penfield was eager to have my students in her classroom, and welcomed any and all opportunities for inclusion. Because of her willingness to adapt and modify her lessons and materials, several students were able to be included in the regular classroom for the first time in their elementary school careers. In addition to this, Mrs. Penfield maintained open communication with both me and my students' parents. This allowed for any problems to be resolved quickly and efficiently.

While in Mrs. Penfield's classroom, my students gained self-confidence and self-esteem. She encouraged their participation and made sure they were included in all classroom activities. Because of her encouragement, these students gained valuable social skills and built peer relationships.

Mrs. Penfield took initiative while planning and differentiated many of her materials. She began the practice of sending home study guides well in advance of any assessments. She was more than willing to create adapted materials or allow students to complete alternative assignments whenever necessary. She was very open to any suggestions I gave her, and went out of her way to implement them.

Mrs. Penfield opened her classroom to my students, and all those involved benefited. She built her class on the premise of a true learning community and saw my students as more than just a label. I highly recommend her for any position dealing with students with or without special needs.

Should you desire any further information, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Brianne Hodges

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