

Box 1019
Bow Island AB T0K 0G0
June 15, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Michelle Vidotto

Since the fall of 2001, I have had the opportunity to work with Michelle Vidotto, as both a colleague and an administrator, at Burdett School. She has taught both grade three and grade four, and she has seen the school evolve from a small kindergarten to grade nine school of approximately 70 students to its current enrollment of approximately 250 students – 90% of them German first language.

Michelle has always demonstrated an exemplary work ethic. Organized, she plans engaging hands-on lessons based on the Alberta curricular outcomes. Her students especially enjoy the science activities, such as creating their own periscopes and kaleidoscopes in the light unit and building models and with Knex in the building unit. Miss Vidotto also plans field trips which enhance learning. During the Waste in our World unit, they have visited and toured a landfill, a bottle recycling depot, and a paper recycling facility. Trips to Police Point Park have built on the objectives of their social studies units and, to extend their fine arts experiences, they have participated in activities such as visiting the Medalta Pottery facility in Medicine Hat, learning how to play recorders, and entertaining at the Pleasant View Lodge in Bow Island.

Michelle also uses a great deal of current technology to enhance her lessons. In fact, she has become quite an in-house and divisional expert with SMART Notebook software and its applications. As a result of her keen interest in and her expert knowledge of this resource, she has presented at both the Senator Gershaw Technology Conference and the teachers' convention in Lethbridge. This year, Miss Vidotto has also focused on using Twitter as a professional development and teaching tool. A lifelong learner, she is continually seeking new methodologies and technologies to use in her classroom.

During her time at Burdett, Michelle has volunteered countless hours outside of the classroom as well. For many years, she ran an afterschool mini-sports program for the grade three-grade six students. She has also coordinated the students' union – planning a variety of fun and community oriented activities, including (but not limited to): cake walks, anti-bullying campaigns, multi-graded literacy days, and fundraisers for groups such as the local food bank and the Red Cross.

Although Miss Vidotto has always been a strong teacher, I have seen a great deal of growth in her ability to collaborate and to show flexibility in the past three years. I believe her involvement in Burdett School's Leveled Reading AISI project has had a direct impact on this evolution. As part of her professional learning community, she has developed stronger teaching skills.

Without hesitation, I recommend Michelle Vidotto for any position for which she applies.

Sincerely,



Laurie Cooper
Vice Principal
Burdett School
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