

## **Jillayne Torrey Flanders**

### **Consulting**

Early Childhood Education-Social Emotional Learning-Leadership

**8 Susan Drive**

**Southampton, Massachusetts 01073**

[jillayneflanders@gmail.com](mailto:jillayneflanders@gmail.com)

413-250-2431

April 25, 2021

**Recommendation for:**

**Kathryn Jones**

It is my pleasure to recommend Ms. Kathryn Jones to you for an elementary level teaching position in your school. I have been Ms. Jones' Program Supervisor through her internship at Mt. Holyoke College, working with her and her Supervising Practitioner since December, 2020. Throughout these unusual pandemic remote learning times, I have been impressed by the creativity, perseverance, and dedication Ms. Jones has demonstrated with the 16 third grade students in her care.

Specifically, I have observed Ms. Jones multiple times welcoming students to the start of a remote school day, or greeting them as they return from special activities or lunch break. She has taken time to learn about each student's individual needs, their interests and work habits. She makes a point of greeting each child individually as they appear on their screens, and in most cases has a prompt ready to connect them to prior lessons before starting in. I found children eager to talk with her, share experiences, and ask about "what's next?"

In each curriculum area, Ms. Jones has proven to dig deeper than the guides suggest, have additional resources ready to share with the students, and had prepared individual formative assessments to assist in modifying work to meet the intended outcomes. She is patient, consistently established high goals, and assures the students that they can complete challenging work. She provides an interesting mixture of video-taped examples as well as live instruction, adding interest to the lessons. Ms. Jones also has a marvelous sense of humor, and encourages the children to relax and have fun with their work. She celebrates mistakes, and works through what went wrong as an additional lesson within a lesson.

Although it is difficult to anticipate how Ms Jones will address classroom management, I have observed her respectfully intervening with individual children on line, to get them back on topic and to work. I imagine her skills will transfer to in-person learning smoothly. Ms. Jones' technical and record keeping skills are outstanding, and she used technology that gave her students a variety of ways to demonstrate their knowledge and work. Additionally, I have been impressed with her ability to integrate curriculum areas while addressing grade-level standards. In English/Language Arts, the study of Will Allen brought together reading, critical thinking, social-emotional and self reflective practices, science and social studies topics in one 30 minute

lesson. Utilizing workgroups to interact with students in smaller groups allowed her to better check in on comprehension and design her next steps.

Clearly, I believe Ms Jones is well prepared for the challenges and joy of leading her own classroom. Her enthusiasm is catching, and she will be an active member of your school community. I have supervised many teacher candidates through the Mt Holyoke program over the past five years, and Ms Jones is at the head of elementary candidates. I have also been an elementary level principal and educator for 40 years, and I would most certainly want Ms Jones teaching in my school.

Sincerely,

Jillayne Flanders