

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

May 3, 2017

To whom it may concern:

I have had the honor of knowing Hannah Cirignani since the beginning of this school year, from when she started as a student intern through the Michigan State University (MSU) Chicago Internship Program and was placed at Shoemith Elementary School in Chicago Public Schools. From the first day of the school year she took command of the classroom as if it was her own, and worked as a true team teacher with her mentor teacher.

Hannah was placed in a very energetic 4th grade classroom this past year, and from the very beginning took it as a challenge that she was not going to back down from. She did an extraordinary job of creating a classroom environment where all of her students felt comfortable to learn and felt safe. And she did this by first building relationships with them, and by creating consistent structures and routines.

Throughout the year she would adjust different instructional and motivational strategies in order to engage the students. She quickly understood that some students needed different approaches than others and incorporated them into her teaching style. She truly is one of the most caring and compassionate teachers I've seen.

The lessons that she created built on student interest, and she was able to push students to think more deeply about whatever subject matter was in front of them. By mid-year she began to implement small groups, which allowed her to further differentiate her lessons to meet the needs of her students. Not only did Hannah create strong ties with her students and mentor teacher, she also built ties with the school community. She participated in most of the school activities while balancing being part of the MSU program, which requires interns to take courses while student teaching for the full year as well.

It is without hesitation that I recommend Hannah. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (443) 418 - 4274, or lagoud@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



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Beulah Shoemith School



May 3, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Hannah Cirignani was a teacher intern in my classroom from September 2016 until April 2017 at Shoemith School located in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois. Shoemith is a kindergarten through sixth grade school comprised of 79.2% low income students and 9.8% students with diverse learning needs. 91.5% of our 366 students are African American. During her time at Shoemith, Hannah was responsible for the planning, preparation, and execution of the math lessons in our fourth grade class.

Through out her internship, Ms. Cirignani demonstrated sincere interest for the wellbeing and academic progress of her students. Her concern was evident by the wealth of time she spent getting to know each child on an individual basis, and then using this knowledge to drive her planning and instruction. Ms. Cirignani invested extra time to have one-on-one conversations and closely analyze student work, from which she got to know students on both a personal and academic level. She incorporated the information she gained into her lessons, which were standards-based, yet engaging because their relevance to students was apparent. Furthermore, due to her keen evaluation of varied types of student assessments, differentiation in each lesson fit students' needs in order to maximize academic progress. Such a practice is one of only the most passionate, genuine, and dedicated of educators.

Ms. Cirignani refined her already deft classroom management skills throughout her eight months in my classroom. Classroom management proves to be a challenge for many beginning teachers, however, Ms. Cirignani has proven to possess management skills of a seasoned educator. Much of Ms. Cirignani's classroom management was dealt with proactively by planning engaging lessons, giving clear, concise directions, and leaving little down time for students to participate in anything other than an academic activity. Furthermore, her close relationship with students fostered an environment of mutual respect and caring which led to a decreased amount of management issues within the classroom. Because of her proactive approach and appropriate responses to misbehavior, issues of management never came between Ms. Cirignani and the lessons she planned to teach.

It is with the highest regard I recommend Ms. Cirignani. I have no doubt she will be an asset to any school at which she teaches. Ms. Cirignani created and maintained collaborative relationships with teachers and interns alike, as well as became a part of the entire Shoemith family. She delivered exceptional instruction to my students that ultimately equipped them with a stellar fourth grade education, and I am confident she will achieve no less with her very own students. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

Kelly C. Lane

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Beulah Shoemith Elementary School

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Sabrina L. Gates
Principal

April 20, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jennifer Giffey and I am a fourth-grade literacy teacher at Shoemith Elementary School. I am writing on behalf of Hannah Cirignani, an elementary teacher intern I had the pleasure of working alongside in my fourth-grade classroom during the 2016-2017 school year. Shoemith is a K-6 school in the Chicago Public School system that educates over 300 students, primarily African American and a majority of whom receive free or reduced lunch assistance.

Over the course of the school year, I have seen tremendous growth in Hannah during our time together. Hannah has grown as a communicator. I watched how quickly she was able to build a positive rapport with administration, staff members, parents, and students. The relationship she has built with her students has been extraordinary. She has been able to build strong relationships with students and does a tremendous job when faced with the challenges of a difficult student. Her calm and nurturing nature has helps her connect to students.

With a focus in Reading and Language Arts, it is acknowledged that literacy is one of Hannah's strengths. She is knowledgeable about both literacy content and pedagogy. This is evident as she models guided reading and reading workshop lessons as a way to teach a balanced literacy curriculum and to differentiate instruction to suit the unique needs of all students. For example, Hannah created an exceptional unit in Literacy which integrated social studies. Students demonstrated their learning through writing and debate.

Additionally, Hannah created Second Step lessons. The lessons created have helped build our classroom community. Students have not only learned to work together but also learned to be empathic of each other's feelings. Hannah also taught exploratory based Science lessons. Her management ability is also exemplary. Ms. Cirignani is an enthusiastic advocate for her students and leads by example. When teaching reading groups, her groups are great examples of active learning, mutual respect, and cooperation.

In addition to being a dedicated teacher and colleague during the school day, Ms. Cirignani also participates in many extra-curricular duties. She attended all curriculum nights, ice cream social, professional development and open house. She collaborated with administration, classroom teachers, and other staff members like myself, to analyze school data and provide suggestions for improving classroom instruction. She also opens her doors early for students who seek out extra support.

It was truly a joy to work with Ms. Cirignani, someone who goes above and beyond the call of duty. Ms. Cirignani's extraordinary work ethic, organization, and strong communication skills are a few of the many reasons for her success. Her professionalism and knowledge are two more reasons Hannah is able to balance her practice, student needs, and professional obligations. All the challenges teaching presents have been met with determination and drive. She whole-heartedly invests herself and captures the hearts and minds of students. I believe that any school would be fortunate to have her as a part of their staff, and I would be happy to further discuss her qualifications at any time. I can be reached by phone at (708) 420-8044 or via email at jlrawl@cps.edu.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Giffey
4th Grade Teacher
Shoemith Elementary School