



Bellevue Elementary
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To Whom it May Concern:

It is with extreme pleasure that I pen this letter of recommendation in support of Abigail Brown. I met Abigail in 2018 when she joined the 5th grade team at Bellevue Elementary School. I served as her mentor and instructional coach. Working alongside Abigail has afforded me the opportunity to witness her true talent as a teacher, diligence, and genuine concern for students. Abigail is well suited for an international context and I highly recommend that she be accepted into your program.

One of the most unique characteristics about her is that she is highly motivated and has a thirst for knowledge that is engrossing. To begin, Abigail taught herself Spanish in high school, which she still speaks well and in college studied to become conversational in French. Then, as an undergraduate, in addition to her major in Elementary Education, she took on two minors in history and sociology followed by a honors program in global education. She later earned a certificate for completion of the program. Currently, she is enrolled in an endorsement program at the University of Virginia studying English as a Second language. This is something she has always wanted to study because linguistics and the pragmatics of language are really fascinating to her. Simultaneously, she began studying Korean, which has been a challenge because of all of its drastic differences from English. This has given her a deeper understanding of how to teach English to a native Korean speaker, because she knows the phonology, semantics and pragmatics of their first language in order to build from it. She can read and write Hangeul and can decode nearly everything she is given in the Korean language. Abigail is now working on vocabulary as well as verbal communication. During this quarantine period, she has been excited and very dedicated to studying.

Abigail enjoys learning new things, particularly about sociology, linguistics, educational practices, and history. She is constantly taking classes or engaging in professional learning programs trying to perfect her own teaching practice. In addition to engaging in her own development, Abigail enjoys participating in activities or programs that support student development as well. Last school year, she willingly accepted an opportunity to prepare students

for the "Mind Games/STEAM & Engineering" competition. Additionally, she devoted weekend time helping students meet academic goals in reading and/or math during our Saturday Academy Program.

Over the last few years, I have watched Abigail grow into an incredible educator who is respected and valued by her students, colleagues, and the community. She is very driven, dedicated to the profession, and motivated to learn. There is no doubt that she would be able to adapt to Korean culture and life. Looking beyond the academic and professional success, you will find a funny and compassionate young lady. I have no reservations giving Abigail Brown my highest recommendation for your program. Her talents as an educator and dedication as a learner will be a wonderful addition to your program. Please feel free to contact me at the home number listed above should you have any additional questions.

Shaunte L. Means
Mentor & Instructional Coach