



October 27, 2013

Recommendation for Stephanie Foster

After over twenty years as a teacher and a leader of teachers, I know what hard work looks like, and I know a lot of hard workers, but I know of no one with whom I have worked in all my years who has greater capacity for working hours on end than Stephanie Foster. In Seoul, she was teacher, drama director, actor, singer, wife, club leader, and student (pursuing two degrees at one time).

In addition, I have never met anyone who is both laid back with cast members and students and attentive to every little detail. Stephanie is obsessively organized and very comfortable working in the midst of crisis situations. She is able to work a sixteen-hour day and still sit down and have a time consuming conversation with an actor who simply needs encouragement.

As a teacher of seniors in British literature classes, Stephanie's first priority was that students learned to love literature and to feel what authors intended them to feel. Her second priority was that every student had every chance to succeed. She went to great lengths to let students know how important their success was to her.

Around the time of the announcement of her exit from our school for the coming year, a drama student in whom Stephanie had particularly invested composed a work for the school Poetry Slam. He painted word pictures of three individuals who had meant the most to his life. She was one of those. He won the Poetry Slam.

At our school Stephanie consistently lived out what she values. No one could have any questions regarding what she was passionate about. She had no free time, but she loves to act; so, she engaged herself in the local theatre scene in Seoul. She loves to sing; so, she joined a local choral group. It was Stephanie's passion and commitment to success that earned her the job as the first drama leader at YISS. She dealt with a minimalist budget, worked with limited resources, and brought students out of the woodwork to create eight productions during her four years of work. We now have a legitimate program, and it is something to be proud of. Stephanie is humble enough to allow students to run their own productions from the first minute to the last. As productions go, they stand or fall on their own. Afterward, she picks them up and encourages them in every way that she can.

It should be noted that the school never committed to a full-time drama hire during Stephanie's tenure. She taught at least four classes during each of her four years here. She had every reason to complain about her schedule, but she is not a complainer. She had to interact with business office, three levels of administrators, construction crew, everyone else using the rehearsal areas, and teachers. There were mistakes to be made and conflicts to be had at every turn, and she made some mistakes, but she always handled those with grace and humility.

As materials, actors, and students are concerned, Stephanie demonstrates aptitude to do so much with so little. She makes actors believe in their potential and dream about where that could take them. She helps students to value words as incredibly powerful instruments for healing or for hurting. They first embrace the words, and then they share them with others.



Please do not hesitate to call or write should you have any questions regarding the potential employment of Stephanie. I would be happy to speak on her behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Seth Parrish', is written in a cursive style.

Seth Parrish | High School Principal

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