

To Whom It May Concern:

I came to know Stephanie Foster while she was the High School Drama teacher for Yongsan International School of Seoul (YISS). I have two daughters who attended YISS Elementary and Middle School. Although Mrs. Foster was the High School teacher, she opened up her plays and musicals to some of the younger students.

The first time I watched my daughters, and other children, audition, I was struck by the way she made each child feel like they had given an award-winning performance. Although most of them were really not very good at all, she found a way to say something positive and encouraging to each one, and to find a place for them.

I am not one for managing chaos well, but Mrs. Foster could handle situations I had trouble just witnessing. I was always amazed that she could not only stay calm, but also get them back on track and working again. She has the ability to see the smallest amounts of potential in the students and play to their strengths or draw it out of them. She is always willing to give them a chance to prove themselves if they want to.

One of my daughters has a learning difference that makes school harder for her than most students. It is heartbreaking to see her work so hard at something and still not get the results she was working so hard to achieve. Mrs. Foster not only gave her a chance to succeed, but also saw something in her abilities that I hadn't. She now wants to be an actress and continue on this path she has grown to love so much and build her confidence in. I'm thankful for her insight and belief in my daughter.

It was a true loss for the parents of YISS to lose such a talented and passionate teacher. She managed to take a program that had no foundation, no props or supplies, and very little support from the school, and turn it into a program kids were clamoring to be a part of each year. I will always be incredibly thankful she allowed the younger students to participate and see their own potential, when she didn't have to be bothered at all with them.

I hope we will have the opportunity to work with Mrs. Foster again in some capacity in our future. We would jump at the chance to have such a talented and caring director again.

Very sincerely,

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