

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

March, 2010

To whom it may concern:

I highly recommend Allison Zenner for a position teaching music. Her specialization is in strings and orchestra, and she is certified and qualified to teach music K-12. While Allison was a student at Arizona State University, she was in four of my classes, and she taught under my supervision for one year in the ASU String Project. I also supervised her student teaching.

I have continued to work with Allison as a mentor and co-researcher since her graduation. In both roles, I have observed her teaching of classes for elementary strings, junior high, and high school orchestra. Allison plans her instruction to arrange for student success and uses a wide variety of teaching techniques appropriate to each age level and situation. She analyzes students' skills and attitudes, and adjusts her instruction accordingly. Allison is patient and encouraging, and makes sure that her students understand and can perform the technical, theoretical, or musical skill. She cares about her students and I can tell that they enjoy working with her. She works well with other people, and is willing to help out wherever she is needed.

Allison initially asked me to help her improve her teaching skills as a first-year teacher, since at the time, her district did not provide a music mentor for her. This interest in self-improvement has been a consistent trait for Allison as long as I have known her. Other teachers in the Paradise Valley district tell me that Allison both seeks advice from them and brings new ideas for the other teachers to try. Allison is a dedicated and caring educator, and seeks to offer her students the best she can. She has worked hard on our research presentations, helping me to better understand what it is like to be a young teacher, and I admire her willingness to reflect on, discuss, and revise her own practice.

I recommend Allison without reservation for a position teaching music. She is sincerely committed to helping students grow in their personal and musical skills, as well as to her own professional development. She is a thoughtful, considerate person in both her professional and personal life, and would be a valued colleague. I would be happy to discuss her abilities with anyone considering her employment as a music educator.

Sincerely,



Margaret Schmidt, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Music
Office: 480-965-8277; Home: 602-438-7435
email: marg.schmidt@asu.edu