

To Whom It May Concern re: JOEL TREMBLAY

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Joel Tremblay. I have known Joel since the beginning of the current school year (2007-08) when he was hired at St. Michaels University School as a coaching intern. Although this was Joel's primary area of employment, he contacted me right away to let me know that he was also a fully fledged art teacher with a specialty in industrial sculpture, and he offered his services within my department.

I have found Joel to be both knowledgeable about his subject area and willing to share his expertise readily with the students. Since September, he has run a weekly Art Club outside regular school hours, in which he has developed a chosen theme for each session. I have been impressed by the amount of effort Joel has put into preparing presentations for the Art Club, and the ease with which he is able to reach the students. He interacts with them effectively because he is able to select subject matter which appeals to their level of interest, but which is entirely appropriate to reinforce the concept central to his theme. He has worked with some students who have had social difficulties and has managed to peak their interest in art, while reinforcing their sense of self-esteem. In addition, this fall Joel was mentoring an AP student working in 3D; Joel showed up for many of the AP classes even though this was an entirely voluntary and unpaid initiative. His knowledge of digital media is sought after, and he has run two professional development workshops for staff and faculty, introducing them to the basics of Photoshop.

Joel is someone willing to get involved; he will put in the extra effort even though he is aware that there will be no remuneration for his efforts. He is truly passionate about art and the students can relate to him because they sense his enthusiasm.

I have no hesitation in recommending Joel for any position which involves teaching art. He would be a valuable addition to any art department.

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