Lockport City School District

Lockport High School **(716) 478-4451**
Lockport, New York 14094-4798

To Whom it May Concern,

It is with the utmost admiration and confidence that I am able to highly recommend Ms. Holly Atkins for employment as a Social Studies Teacher within your school district. Holly completed her student teaching internship at Lockport High School during the Fall Semester of 2023 (from September through December) while also having been a student of mine in her Social Studies Methods of Teaching course at Niagara University in the Spring of 2023. Ms. Atkins possesses a tremendous content knowledge background and provides excellent dissemination of all material aimed for student understanding and learning at a diversified academic level. She has utilized both technology student centered based lessons such as audio-visual presentations, graphic organizers, discussions, and individualized research using all available technology which has prompted full student engagement throughout her lessons. Ms. Atkins' dedication and high efficiency in the classroom led to her taking overand teaching a full semester of Global History & Geography 1 under the tutelage of my esteemed colleague, Mr. Erik Musto. Ms. Atkins has implemented both authentic and formative forms of assessment using technology based resources such as discussing & participating in an excellent focus lesson focusing upon the personal narratives sustained during the Japanese American Internment Camps during WW2. Holly conducted a research based inquiry into multiple different historical empires and during my observation of her instructional practices: she focused upon evaluating sources and Constructed Response Questions comparing examining the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. Holly has allocated a vast amount of time both during her placement to prepare lessons and prepare the content she was going to be teaching within her student teaching placement at LHS. Ms. Atkins is an exceptionally hard worker dedicated to improving her own teaching practices and the necessary and vital relationships with her students. Holly has been very receptive to mentoring and suggestions regarding her lessons and she was able to be a highly effective practitioner of self-reflection which is essential to being an efficient and proactive teacher of high school aged adolescents regardless of the course content she is teaching. Ms. Atkins spent countless time revising and editing her lesson plans allowing her to individualize and differentiate instruction to meet the needs of our diverse learners at Lockport High School given the plethora of 504 & IEP students in her courses. To offer a specific case, Holly has been able to utilize Consultant Teacher supports very effectively while completing higher level reading tasks in her CT Global 9 classes. Ms. Atkins' classroom demeanor is of a great positive nature yet she is willing to attempt to engage students to their fullest potential through fostering a nurturing rapport maintaining the highest integrity of the teacher-student relationship. Lastly, Ms. Atkins is always willing to put in the extra effort to improve her best instructional practices and worked very well in the collaborative atmosphere of her mentor teachers' classroom. She was extremely responsive to suggestions and incorporated many of the collaborative ideas into her subsequent practices. It has truly been an honor to have taught and observe Ms. Atkins for she will be a fine and valued addition to your instructional faculty. It is without hesitation and the utmost confidence I am able to recommend Ms. Holly Atkins to join your teaching staff for I fully endorse her candidacy for employment within your school district. If you wish to contact me, I am able to be reached at 716-478-4451, ext. 5144 or MVermette@lockportschools.net.

Sincerely,
Matthew A Vermette **11/29/2023**

Matthew AJ Vermette Ed.D.
AP World History Instructor
Head Indoor Track & Field Coach
Head Modified Football Coach
Lockport City School District
Adjunct Professor
Niagara University & Hunan First Normal University
Niagara Frontier League Modified Football Chairman