TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
TONAWANDA MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

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KRISTINE STRIBLE
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

JAMES MENZIE
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

February 17, 2026

To whom it may concern,

It is my sincere pleasure to recommend Holly Shipley, an exceptional Social Studies teacher and valued member of our 7th grade team. She is a dedicated educator whose commitment to student growth, engagement, and well-being is evident in everything she does.

Holly consistently demonstrates a deep passion for social studies and an unwavering commitment to helping students connect meaningfully with history and the world around them. She thoughtfully designs lessons that incorporate interactive discussions, primary sources, project-based learning, and innovative instructional strategies that bring content to life. Her classroom is an environment where curiosity is encouraged, critical thinking is developed, and every student feels valued and supported.

Beyond her classroom responsibilities, Mrs. Shipley serves as the advisor for our History Explorers Club. Through this program, she creates enriching opportunities for students to extend their learning beyond the school day. Most notably, she organizes and leads an annual educational trip to Boston, where students experience history firsthand by visiting significant historical sites and landmarks. This trip reflects her belief that history should not only be studied, but experienced. The time and care she invests in planning these experiences demonstrate her dedication to providing students with authentic and memorable learning opportunities.

As a colleague, she is collaborative, reflective, and always willing to share ideas and strategies to strengthen our team. Her caring nature and strong relationships with students foster a classroom culture built on respect, inclusivity, and encouragement.

I give Holly Shipley my highest recommendation. She is an outstanding educator who makes a lasting impact on her students and school community. Please feel free to contact me via phone (716-310-2943) or email (l.schwab@live.com) if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Leah Kane
7th Grade English Language Arts Teacher
Tonawanda Middle School