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Lesson Review and Endorsement for Samuel Gonzalez

Sammy Gozalez is a long term substitute at Quarry Hill School in the Pennsbury School District. He currently is in a second grade classroom. I had the opportunity to join his second graders for a mathematics lesson in March. Upon arrival into the Google Meet, the students were completing a grammar lesson on contractions. In the first few minutes it became apparent that one of Sammy's greatest strengths is in his ability to connect with the students and that he had already developed a wonderful rapport with the students. He encouraged students to think about their answer and provide the reason why they chose a particular contraction as the correct choice. As that grammar lesson was completed, he told the students it was doodle time and that they should take out their marker boards and create a doodle. This was a fun transitional activity to get the students ready for Math. As students doodled, music was playing softly in the background, and Sammy was walking around the room helping the students who were present. Sammy then announced that it was time to finish and share. He reminded the students at home joining the classroom via a google meet that he could only see their work if they were on screen. Sam allowed students both in person and at home to share and explain their doodle. Students were excited to do this. This joyful transition prepared them for the math lesson.

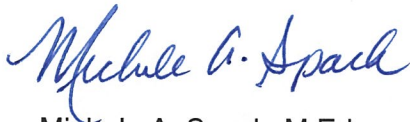
Sammy explained to the students that today they would be focusing on finding the difference between two numbers and asked what strategies would help them find that answer. Students shared that they could use number lines, another student responded that they could use addition by finding the missing number that equals the larger number, while other students used information they knew such as regrouping as well as using manipulatives. As students worked through guided practice, students were called upon to show their work on a whiteboard or at the smartboard. Sammie called on two students, a boy and a girl to be the teachers to show how they came up with the answers. As students worked independently, Sammy walked around the room to offer assistance for the in person students or reached out to the students who were learning from home via the google meet to provide additional help. Sammy again supported the students by asking clarifying questions as the "student teachers" shared how they solved the problem. The focus of his classroom is creating that caring, safe and risk-free learning environment. All students were actively engaged throughout the lesson and if a student needed to be directed it was done in a positive way. Even when Sammy was kicked out of the google meeting the students stayed focused and continued the work. It was clearly evident that students understood the rules and what was expected of them in the event that technology created an issue.

MISSION

Recognizing our proud traditions and diverse community, the Pennsbury School District prepares all students to become creative, ethical, and critical thinkers for lifelong success in a global society.

Sammy has created a wonderful and respectful learning environment in this classroom. He has developed a wonderful rapport with his parents and with his colleagues. He has taken on additional responsibilities both at the building level and at the district level. He offered to lead a building PLC at Quarry Hill, be the liaison for a district-wide committee for an Earth Day event, and volunteered to be a part of a district curriculum writing committee to examine our curriculum through the lens of equity. Sammy participated in our district sponsored Meet and Greet and emerged as a top candidate for a teaching position in our district. He was awarded a contract for the 2021-2022 school year. Sammy is highly motivated and passionate about teaching. He will be a wonderful addition to the Pennsbury School District. I am confident that he will continue to grow his skills and emerge as a future leader.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michele A. Spack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michele A. Spack, M.Ed.
Director of Elementary Education