
Ginene (Gigi) Mason

121 Corlear Drive
Willsboro, New York 12996
(518) 932-5726
gigimason213@gmail.com

June 23, 2021

To Whom it May Concern;

Derrick Hopkins has asked me for a letter of recommendation to apply as a teacher at the Au Sable Valley Central School District. As a proud AVCS Patriot I am privileged to be able to do so. I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing Derrick for over 20 years, both as a fellow educator, and as a friend and theatre colleague.

When I was first getting to know Derrick I supervised two CVES classrooms at the Willsboro School where Derrick was a teacher. Although I did not supervise Derrick's classroom, when he would see me in the school he would often invite me in to observe and then would ask for feedback, as one would a Mentor. I was very struck by Derrick's classroom management, his sense of humor and connectedness with his students, and his creative and multi-dimensional lessons. I remember one science lesson involving closed and open circuits where the students were actively exploring these concepts standing in a circle and creating different circuits with their bodies. Because of Derrick's artistic talent, his lessons often involved music or some kind of creative element. The students were always happy and thriving in his classroom.

As a participant in Community and School theatre, I have worked with and for Derrick in over ten productions and I have probably been an audience member in at least ten more. Derrick grew a theatre program at Willsboro School from the ground up to be recognized now as one of the premier school groups in the North Country. He explored creative fundraising solutions to bring costuming, lights, sound and extracurricular trips to the program. Derrick also directed for years for Community Theatre groups and in the past few years has founded Artistry Community Theatre, a local community theatre group that has quickly earned recognition for the quality and professionalism of its shows. Derrick has done all of this while working full time and raising his daughter.

When I think of a Patriot teacher, Derrick checks off all of the boxes. He is smart, funny, talented and above all hard working and growth set minded. He

grew up in Au Sable and has chosen to raise his daughter here and intends to send her to AVCS. His commitment to the school and community is unmatched and I am confident that he would pour all of that energy and creativity into any position at AVCS and any and all extracurricular activities that he sets his mind to.

I believe Derrick would be a tremendous addition to the Patriot family and I am happy to discuss his candidacy further through email or the number listed above. Thank you for your consideration and best of luck in your search.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ginene (Gigi) Mason". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Ginene" and the nickname "(Gigi)" written in a smaller, more compact style than the last name "Mason".

Ginene (Gigi) Mason, retired principal, AVCS