



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

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SCHOOL OF ART

To the Lahey Scholarship Committee:

It is my great pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Stephanie Butler who is applying for the Lahey Scholarship. Stephanie has been my undergraduate and now graduate student in the Art Education Program at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB).

Stephanie has been my student teaching assistant in three of my art education courses as well as the program coordinator for the 2005 Young Artists' Camp at California State University Long Beach. She has been a diligent, intelligent and valuable teaching assistant, and one of my strongest students.

I have always respected Stephanie for her creativity and talent in visual and performing arts as well as her enthusiasm and dedication in teaching art and developing art projects in the community. Stephanie possesses outstanding leadership skills in the arts. She has successfully developed a Community Service Learning Student Chapter at California State University, and worked as an irreplaceable undergraduate and graduate advisor for the Arts Bridge Program at the CSULB College of the Arts.

As an art teacher, Stephanie has been outstanding by staying current with the latest pedagogical practices in art education.

Currently as my graduate student, Stephanie has displayed a positive attitude, an inquisitive mind, and demonstrated excellent study habits and achieved exceptional grades. She has been deeply engrossed in her studies and finished her assignments in time and to a very high degree of achievement.

Stephanie is in the process of writing her thesis on the effectiveness of quantitative data-driven instruction in our public schools art classes. Her quantitative study will bring new light on the utilization of standardized tests in art classes and in what ways these practices hinder student's creativity.



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I am extending Stephanie Butler my highest recommendation for your scholarship program; and I am confident that with her leadership and organizational abilities along with the financial support from this scholarship, she will accomplish many more projects that will enrich the lives of many students and serve the public well. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (562) 985-4387 or [csilveir@csulb.edu](mailto:csilveir@csulb.edu).

Sincerely,

Carlos Silveira, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Art Department, California State University, Long Beach

To Whom It May Concern:

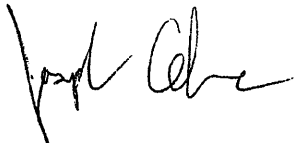
This letter is to recommend Stephanie Butler for the open position at your school. During the last four years Stephanie has been my colleague and collaborator at New Millennium Secondary School (NMSS), where we are both founding faculty.

As a colleague, Stephanie has aided my development as a science educator. She helped me develop lesson plans, management tools, and inquiry-based science labs for our science department. She always had ideas on making instruction effective and meaningful. Her experience as an art teacher is apparent in the methods, examples, and guidance she gives. She likes to collaborate to engage and create student learning. She has a depth and understanding of pedagogy that has been developed from her experience and has aided the development of NMSS's teaching praxis.

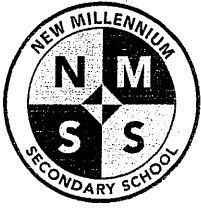
Stephanie and I collaborated on the creation of our school's initial WASC Accreditation report. Consistently, we worked at documenting, cataloging, and organizing lessons, labs, and to be included in the curriculum component of the report. From this experience, I learned that Stephanie is dedicated to the progress of our school. She contributed many ideas, lessons, and items of evidence to include in our final WASC report.

For the last four years, Stephanie and I have worked well together. She has consistently demonstrated her skills and innate ability as a teacher at NMSS. Our small, independent charter school requires teachers to work at a step above customary classroom instruction. Teachers have to be advisors, hall monitors, counselors, and be prepared for all situations, because we lack the staff and resources of typical school districts. Stephanie has taken on a larger role because she is a department unto herself and developed three college prep Art Courses at NMSS. She has proven that she is teacher of exceptional quality.

From my experience Stephanie Butler has demonstrated leadership. She has proven to be an outstanding colleague and collaborator. I emphatically recommend Stephanie Butler for the open position. She would be a great asset to your school who is dedicated, effective, and focused on creating results in student learning



Joseph Calmer  
Science Teacher  
New Millennium Secondary School  
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**New Millennium Secondary School**  
**20700 Avalon Blvd. Ste. 285**  
**Carson, CA 90746**  
**310-999-6162 phone**  
**310-999-6163 fax**

Monday, May 21, 2012

Dear Faculty Search Committee:

Please accept this is on behalf of Mrs. Stephanie Perample Butler with regard to her application for the open position at your school. Mrs. Butler is currently employed at New Millennium Secondary School and is in good standing with all school stakeholders.

Over the past four years Stephanie has done a wonderful job of revising and revamping the Visual and Digital Media Arts program at our school, from a start-up to a solid program which continues to be the example and the foundation for our other departments to emulate. Her commitment to educating today's youth is immediately evident, and the seriousness in which she holds her responsibility towards her students is also evident as soon as you enter Stephanie's classroom.

With both of us being members of the eight founding faculty at NMSS, and now being a part of the administrative team, I take great pride in recommending Mrs. Butler, knowing that she has been and will continue to be a valued member of our team until a better opportunity to grow both artistically and professionally comes along, and it is my understanding that your school can provide her with just that opportunity. Over the course of the past four years Stephanie has stepped up and volunteered for various committees, and was an integral part of our most recent WASC accreditation process. She goes beyond the bell daily, usually showing up at 7am rather than 7:30 and leaving after the faculty release time of 3:45.

In my opinion Stephanie Perample Butler is a dedicated teacher committed to her field, to her students, and to the pursuit of knowledge, and will be an excellent model of what is expected of a teacher.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [jdaquino@newmillenniumschool.org](mailto:jdaquino@newmillenniumschool.org) or 310-999-6162 x 154.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph D' Aquino', with a large, loopy flourish extending to the right.

Joseph D' Aquino  
Instructional Coach  
New Millennium Secondary School



**Allison Armstrong**

MrsAlliArmstrong@gmail.com

(714) 276-4128

18 May, 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I highly recommend Mrs. Stephanie Butler, an excellent teaching colleague at New Millennium Secondary School, for employment as an educator in your district. Stephanie is a positively stellar and disciplined educator. She demonstrates her dedication daily to teaching and her commitment to serving the community. I am proud to work alongside her each day at NMSS.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Butler as a teacher at New Millennium Secondary School for the past two years. I have personally witnessed Mrs. Butler's creation and development of our Visual Arts Department. From teaching Drawing and Painting to our very successful Digital Media class, our students have thrived under her direction in the arts courses, and our community is responding with great support and enthusiasm. Stephanie has also been the yearbook advisor at NMSS. She has helped create a lasting legacy year after year with an organized, artistic, and remarkable yearbook. Stephanie has accomplished all this with grace under pressure and the utmost professionalism. She has supported the school's academic successes by submitting UC Course Guides for her content areas, WASC committee participation, CST Prep and Proctoring, implementation of Standards-Based Grading, use of Data-Driven Instruction, and curriculum design and development. She meets each challenge with a specific, discerning intent and always a pleasant attitude.

Stephanie is professional, positive, and enthusiastic. She has a strong rapport with the students. She is articulate and always ready with a smile and positive attitude. She works very well with stakeholders of the school, from parents to board members. Her dedication is inspiring. I am proud to highly recommend Stephanie without reservation for this opportunity in which she can grow as an educator, and further serve our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allison Armstrong'.

Allison Armstrong

World Geography and Drama Teacher

New Millennium Secondary School, Carson CA



**Foothill High School**  
19251 Dodge Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705  
(714) 730-7464 Fax (714) 573-9376  
[gwaibel@tustin.k12.ca.us](mailto:gwaibel@tustin.k12.ca.us)

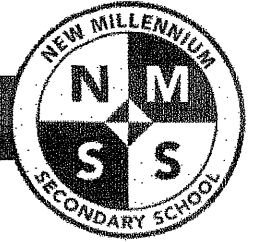
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To Whom It May Concern,

I have known Stephanie Butler for one year and found her to be a compassionate, hard working individual. She has worked as a teacher of art and I have found her organizational skills and teaching ability to be exemplary. She assisted in organizing and showcasing student work in our first ever Fine Arts Night and assumed control of the Yearbook class and made significant, positive changes. Her willingness to work with others and her expertise in WASC review were invaluable to the Fine Arts Department in garnering a favorable review. Ms Butler has a strong relationship with her students and the staff and I would recommend her for any position she chose to apply for. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me at [gwaibel@tustin.k12.ca.us](mailto:gwaibel@tustin.k12.ca.us) or 1 714 730-7464 ext 407. Thank you.

Sincerely,

George Waibel  
Fine Arts Department Chairman  
Foothill High School



May 22, 2012

To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Stephanie Butler for employment in your district as an Advances Placement Art Teacher. Mrs. Butler is highly qualified in her subject matter and is able to make the Visual Art and Digital Media Art curriculum accessible to all of her students. She works well with her colleagues in creating collaborative and interdisciplinary lessons and projects, and has been a valued member of our staff since the school opened its doors in August, 2008.

Mrs. Butler has taught both ninth and eleventh grade students at NMSS, all coming from a wide variety of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. As a visual arts teacher, Mrs. Butler instructed ninth grade students in drawing and painting. Mrs. Butler created the curriculum for the art department to ensure that it was rigorous and pushed students' creative potential. Students reported that they felt confident in their abilities to participate in the course and produce quality works of art, despite feeling less than artistic at the beginning of the course. Mrs. Butler used technology, students' creative choices, and the surrounding world to make the subject relevant and accessible to all students. Mrs. Butler was able to provide each student with a sense of confidence and success throughout the course of study.

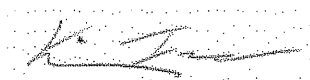
In the 2010-11 school year, Mrs. Butler developed the Digital Media Arts component to the Visual Arts Department. Mrs. Butler incorporates technology very effectively in her lessons as a way to engage students and developed the Digital Media curriculum. In addition, she has worked with students over the last four years to build the school's yearbook. In the first two years, all of the work for the yearbook was done outside of class time. Mrs. Butler coordinated the students and worked diligently to create a high quality yearbook with only ninth grade students as contributors. Since then, Mrs. Butler has used the digital media platform to create a yearbook with no template or pre-designed publishing program, having students build the yearbook from scratch using the skills learned through the course of the Digital Media Arts course.

Mrs. Butler frequently collaborates with other staff members to look for ways to incorporate other discipline areas into her curriculum. She has developed lessons to support math and science, as well as English and social studies. She has done well working with all of the students in her classroom and has demonstrated proficiency of the California Standards for the Teaching Profession.

Mrs. Butler has high expectations of her students and is able to instill a rigorous academic focus to a subject that is often thought of in the high school setting as being less than rigorous. Students write, read, and are challenged to think critically through consistently throughout the course. Mrs. Butler implemented the use of Discussion Boards on her class webpage to facilitate conversation and critical thinking amongst her students, as well as include written critique responses to art work, and research-based projects and essays about specific pieces of work, time periods and artistic movements, and artists as part of the standard curriculum.

Mrs. Butler's ability to instill rigor and high expectations for her students make her an excellent candidate for any Advanced Placement Art position that you have available. She is knowledgeable in her subject area and in how to connect that content with students. As we do not have an Advanced Placement program currently at our school, I highly recommend Stephanie Butler for employment in your district. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to further discuss Mrs. Butler's many qualifications.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Irons  
NMSS Principal