



July 1, 2016

Suncrest Middle School
360 Baldwin Street
Morgantown, WV

Ms. Hicks:

It is with great pleasure and an honor that I am writing this letter of recommendation for Jessica Safreed Thomas. I am sure you will receive many letters for numerous teachers and I have no doubt they all are well qualified to join your team, but I wanted to share with you the outstanding characteristics and actions that define Jessica Thomas.

As the Coordinator for Instructional Technology at the West Virginia Center for Professional Development, I have had the honor to work alongside Mrs. Thomas, providing professional development for other educators across the state of West Virginia. She has been a vital part of the WVCPD's Infusing Technology team due to her ability to inspire all students, even the adult ones, to step outside of their comfort zones and explore the possibilities of technology in education.

Over the past four years, I have been able to observe a young preservice teacher develop into a dynamic leader for our Infusing Technology Academy. The past two Infusing Technology Academies, Mrs. Thomas engaged all of her participants by making learning relevant to their classrooms and challenged them by setting high expectations. She has a true gift of making connections and bringing excitement into any learning environment. If teachers were struggling, she encouraged them to continue their efforts and spent valuable time making them feel comfortable to ask questions. This gift comes from hours of preparation and planning on her part to make sure that each one of her students feels excited about what they're learning. I was not surprised to read the many positive remarks about her on our Infusing Technology Academy evaluations from June 2016.

- "Jessica did an amazing job facilitating team time."
- "Jessica was a great team leader! She was well prepared and very enthusiastic! She made the team time very worthwhile."
- "Jessica was FABULOUS! She was very supportive in helping us."
- "Jessica's workshops were GREAT!"
- "Jessica was AWESOME!"

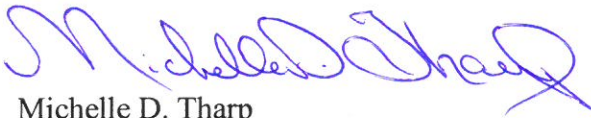
Mrs. Thomas' classrooms, whether it be a STEM professional development or a middle school math class, will never be defined by the four walls that house them. She understands that true student learning happens in the real world and seeks opportunities to engage her students in solving real world problems. She encourages their leadership and confidence to follow their own paths of

discovery and applications. Challenges are viewed as opportunities for collaboration and growth, while success is measured by student engagement and excitement. I've been privileged to observe how she has inspired so many teachers in our Infusing Technology Academies.

I have been amazed how Mrs. Thomas continues to strive for her own professional growth as an educator. As her leader of our Infusing Technology team, I seek her guidance and knowledge to help us provide the most relevant and current technology integration possible for WV educators. She truly is impacting change across our state by encouraging other educators to create environments that inspire students to be passionate about exploration and technology. I no longer consider her a former intern, but a fellow educator and colleague, one who will continue to strive for the success of all of her students.

I proudly endorse Mrs. Thomas for any math teaching position. She is the kind of teacher every administrator desires to have on their team, but also the kind that every parent wishes for their child.

Sincerely,



Michelle D. Tharp
Coordinator of Instructional Technologies
West Virginia Center for Professional Development