

Capital High School Publications

Talon (Yearbook) Flight (Newspaper) Photography

8055 Goddard • Boise, Idaho 83704 • 208.658.2346 (also fax) • Hours 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

April 28, 2002

To Whom it May Concern:

As I sit here pondering how best to start this letter of recommendation for my student teacher, Sylvia Dana, the one thing that repeats over and over again in my mind..."Hire Her!"

After watching her spend the last two semesters working with my newspaper and yearbook classes, I can say, without hesitation, that Ms. Dana is that one in a thousand student teachers who is the best, hands down. She is the knowledgeable, competent, motivated, mature, energetic new teacher that will, with a few years under her belt, be that master teacher you, too, will brag about.

Her years of "real world" experience working on newspapers and other publication projects made my students instantly pay attention to what she had to say. My newspaper staff benefited from her continued connections with publications not just in her expert use of Associated Press writing style but with her people connections also. She set up an impromptu critique session for my newspaper staff at the state journalism conference with Vickie Holbrook, the Idaho Press Tribune editor. This led to a one-on-one meeting between Ms. Holbrook and my student editor, Andrew, when Ms. Dana took him to the newspaper office to talk with her. During this meeting, a number of ideas were shared that benefited our newspaper both quality wise and financially.

Ms. Dana is extremely committed to doing the best job she possibly can and has a passion for producing first-class high school publications. She could have chosen to do the traditional 10 week student teaching phase but voluntarily decided to follow the new program that required her to be in my classroom 50 hours in the fall and most of the semester in the spring. As is typical for Ms. Dana, she even went above and beyond that. She spent many more hours than the 50 required in the fall semester and many days stayed until 5:00 p.m. helping us edit copy and layouts. She has done all of this without getting the university credit on her transcripts. In the spring semester, she started working full days with me two weeks before the university classes started and has plans to stay with us past the time that student teachers are "officially" done.

Because she spent so much time with us early on, she developed strong connections with my students so that there was a seamless transition into her student teaching phase. Students find her very knowledgeable, easy to talk to, fair and willing to work tirelessly to help them be successful. I find her eager to learn every aspect of teaching and able to put new information into practice immediately.

I heartily recommend her.

Sincerely,


Victoria Francis

Advisor: Vicki Francis Advisor phone: 208.322.3875 email: chsvicki@juno.com