



Peter Hobart Elementary School

April 29, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Thomas Odermatt. As an elementary principal, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Thomas over the last 8 years at Peter Hobart elementary school in St. Louis Park. During this time, Thomas has taught 5th grade, been a team leader and created many systems that have helped our building move ahead in the area of technology.

Thomas exhibits many characteristics that make him an effective teacher. His lessons are creative and engaging. He incorporates technology that engage students to personalize and take ownership over their learning. As a teacher, Thomas is passionate about developing students to be critical thinkers, reflective, caring and open minded to different perspectives. Thomas embraces teaching students through inquiry and incorporates higher level thinking by scaffolding questions for his students. Students in Thomas's class are often working on collaborative projects that foster positive teamwork.

Thomas is respected by the staff as a creative educator who brings new ideas to our building. This is particularly true around technology. Thomas is always trying out new technology personally and professionally and looking for ways to incorporate this new learning into his classroom. Thomas openly shares his ideas with staff to help them bring meaningful technology into their classrooms. Over the years, he has led many staff development initiatives around PYP and technology. Thomas is able to break down complex technology integration into steps that help staff feel successful. His passion to be a teacher both in and out of the classrooms has helped our staff and building continue to grow.

Thomas was selected by the International Baccalaureate Organization to be a trained instructor and has led schools through IB/PYP authorization as well as taught a variety of levels of IB training around the United States.

As Thomas pursues new educational opportunities, I am positive he will make a significant impact on students. I have felt fortunate to work with him and know he will be a valuable asset to any organization.

Sincerely,

Shelley Nielsen

Principal, Peter Hobart Elementary

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