

January 13, 2012

To whom it may concern:

It was my pleasure to work with Matthew Dunker in his student teaching experience at Pine-Richland High School in the 2011 Fall Semester. As his faculty supervisor from Robert Morris University, I had the opportunity to observe him in the classroom on several occasions and to provide him with feedback on the lessons I observed. He was always well prepared, had a firm grasp of the subject matter, effectively managed the various activities taking place in the class period, and monitored and adjusted as necessary to meet student needs. His lesson plans were meticulously prepared, effectively executed, and focused on Pennsylvania standards. In their implementation, he always encouraged his students to think critically about the issues being discussed.

In this process, I saw him grow into the role of the classroom teacher and assume increased responsibilities and duties. Being a classroom teacher is more than simply being a subject matter expert. In his case, Matthew brings to the classroom a genuine love of learning, concern for his students, and enthusiasm for the subject matter. His cooperating teacher had nothing but the highest regard for his dedication, professionalism, and devotion to his students.

I believe that Matthew Dunker would be a valuable addition to any Social Studies faculty. It is my pleasure to give him the highest recommendation as he pursues his career as an educator.

Sincerely,



Leonard R. Donaldson
Student Teaching Supervisor
Robert Morris University

1 December 2011

Secondary Education & Graduate Studies Department Head
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To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this recommendation for Mathew Dunker. Matt has worked as my student teacher in World History from September to December, 2011. He has proven his skill as a teacher on a daily basis, not just in an expanding knowledge of content and educational pedagogy, but, also in his very nature as a capable, warm, organized, and attentive educator.


Matt showed his organizational skill immediately upon taking charge of my classes. He came in every day with compact plans. Matt was also quite adaptive and integrated every discussion we had to increase the level of creativity and differentiation. Plans were effectively communicated to the classes as well as to me. Matt was very approachable and adaptable with the students. This was extremely important because a good percentage of these students were learning resource and required a minute by minute tweaking of plans and method to meet their many needs, both instructionally and behaviorally.

World History is a particularly difficult course to teach. It is only offered at the "regular" level so most of the classes are learning resource students. One thousand years of history are presented in the curriculum and this must be disseminated in four months. Matt did a wonderful job of creating meaningful lessons within an overall framework that was both manageable and informative.

After a month or so, Matt took on my AP Government & Politics class. This required a completely different level of content knowledge and intense preparation. Matt handled the incorporation well and continued to build his content knowledge as well as integrate my suggestions on a daily basis.

Matt's students really enjoyed his classes and teaching style. He prepared lessons to which they could relate and used many techniques to keep the students engaged and interested. More importantly, Matt always considered the various needs and levels of ability of the students through his organization and differentiated planning and through his ability to adapt to different circumstances on the spot. Most importantly, Matt kept a warm and good natured affect which endeared him to the students and made them want to learn from him.

I highly recommend Matt for any endeavor, but certainly for a teaching position. He has all of the qualities of a good teacher and the potential to be a great one.



Terry Owens

Social Studies Instructor

Pine Richland HS