



Franklin Fine Arts Center, a CPS Magnet School

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Carol J. Friedman, Principal ▶ **Margie D. Smagacz**, Assistant Principal

May 6, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter of recommendation for Katie Prendergast comes to you with my highest praise for Ms. Prendergast's work. Ms. Prendergast student taught in my self-contained second grade classroom from January – May of 2011 at Franklin Fine Arts Center. She readily assumed all duties of teaching, tailoring her lessons to incorporate the needs of our diverse classroom in such a way that our gifted, as well as our learning disabled students, were able to benefit and soar. Ms. Prendergast was an asset to our classroom due to her creative teaching and her positive relationship with the students and parents.

As a student teacher, Ms. Prendergast brought a great deal of creativity to her teaching. She demonstrated excellent organizational skills and was compassionate toward all of our students, including those who presented serious social challenges. She is consistent with discipline and uses verbal and nonverbal cues for positive behaviors. She was always willing and eager to try new ideas.

Ms. Prendergast planned her lessons carefully and worked at a well defined pace so that no children were left behind. She used modeling strategies, hands-on techniques, and interactive activities to achieve her goals. She maintained small, differentiated reading groups, managed classroom aides/parent volunteers, and taught Everyday Mathematics lessons daily. She designed a Poetry Unit using Lucy Caulkins resources. This unit culminated in the student's receiving a class collection of their poems bound into a book. She designed a Social Studies Unit on communities, where she exposed our urban children to students that live in the country. The unit integrated writing skills, as we became pen pals with this class. Ms. Prendergast continued two-way communication by attending conferences and being visible at dismissal. Ms. Prendergast is trained in Fountas and Pinnell's Guided Reading Program and understands Chicago's Early Literacy assessment tool, DIBELS.

There is no doubt in my mind that Ms. Prendergast will make an excellent teacher. She has my highest possible recommendation. Any school system will be lucky to have her as part of their academic and social life.

If you have any other questions regarding Ms. Katie Prendergast's performance, please do not hesitate to contact me at: 773-456-8085 or jlmackenzie@cps.edu.

Sincerely,

Jennifer MacKenzie, NBCT
Franklin Fine Arts Center
Supervising Teacher

