

Downingtown Middle School

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Nicholas A. Indeglio
Principal

James Bruton
Assistant Principal

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To Whom It May Concern:

For the past two years, I have had the privilege of knowing and teaching Erin VanGuilder. Erin is an Academic Coach at East Vincent Elementary School in the Owen J. Roberts School District. She is a major force behind the gains in PSSA scores and focus on data-driven instruction in her school and district. Through her experiences on the job and as a graduate student at Cabrini College, she demonstrates a strong commitment to the students, staff, program, and her own professional improvement.

The Academic Coach at the elementary level is akin to an Assistant Principal role. In order to prepare students for the upper level standards in elementary and middle school reading and math, the top levels of Bloom's Taxonomy (synthesis, analysis, and evaluation) must be consistently targeted and reached, while also considering the depth of knowledge. As an Academic Coach, Mrs. VanGuilder works diligently to create and implement a system centered on RtII fundamentals. Her intense focus on the lower performing subgroups (black non-Hispanic, special education, and economically disadvantaged) push the envelope for relevant and cohesive individualized instruction. Without doubt, these programs have been critical to East Vincent consistently meeting AYP against increasingly difficult targets.

All the while, the Academic Coach must be cognizant and aware of the social and emotional challenges that their students face each day. Erin is the exceptional teacher who is always able to seamlessly accomplish these tasks. A truly great administrator is always a teacher first and foremost. Erin's successful time in the classroom and Academic Coach is perhaps her most valuable asset as a budding principal.

Erin's professional life is also characterized by an insatiable desire to learn and improve her craft. Whether probing peers, researching the latest literature, or exploring professional organizations, Erin refuses to become stagnant as a leader. Erin was always willing to engage the course material at a high level and consider every angle during discussion. Her viewpoints were always centered around the student first. In addition, and most importantly, Erin believes in the importance of family and understands what truly matters in the long run. I can sum up her interpersonal and professional qualities by offering my highest endorsement: I would truly want Erin to be in the classroom teaching my own children or leading them as principal.

Administrators working in the world of education hold the responsibility for hiring the absolute best teachers and principals for our students. As a former teacher at the elementary level, middle level, and a principal at the secondary level, I have had the opportunity to work in several districts throughout Pennsylvania. From State College to Perkiomen Valley to Upper Merion to Council Rock and now Downingtown, I've seen a variety of teaching styles, strategic plans, professional development strategies,

and achievement initiatives. Without question, Erin is among the elite in our profession. She would be an incredible asset for your institution to meet its goals and fulfill its vision. I fully endorse Erin VanGuilder as a candidate for building principal. You would be fortunate to have such an intelligent and genuine leader. Please contact me with any questions or for further information.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Indeglio

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Principal

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