



Principal
Steve Ruthford

Assistant Principal
Shari Walsh

Superintendent
Greg Baker

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is to recommend Rhys Smoker for a teaching position in your school. Rhys stepped into his newly created resource room para position this spring after frequently and reliably substituting for both certified and classified positions in our building last fall.

Rhys shows a strong willingness to make connections with students who have very specific needs. Drawing upon his vast background of teaching in a variety of settings, he has helped build positive structures in our ever-changing schools. His experience with discovery learning and working with students of diverse needs shines through. He switches gears quickly depending on which student he is supporting, and that student's specific interests, background knowledge, and mood.

Rhys is interested in learning and trying things that may seem unconventional, which the kids love and has also been good for me as his colleague. For example, he might facilitate a student in incorporating a math goal into a preferred activity like cartooning and doodling. He is a creative thinker and willing to work in a team. He is also a parent and brings this knowledge and attitude to his work with students.

This is a time when we need adults paired with students to help navigate so much of the uncertainty in our world. Rhys cares about our students and he shows it by caring what they care about in conversation and through kind gestures such as recognizing and rescuing beloved items from the lost and found. Rhys is a great fit for all settings and has a willingness to dive into the unknown as he continually finds connection with our students.

Please consider Rhys as a candidate for your teaching position.

Sincerely,

Jessica Finstuen

Resource Teacher

Fairhaven Middle School

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