

July 25, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my interest in becoming a trained TEAM mentor at South Side School. When I started teaching in Hartford, my TEAM member was an inspiration and source of knowledge who I could always turn to for advice. I was lucky enough to have a mentor who was also my grade level teammate and someone who had been teaching in Hartford for over 25 years. We debriefed every day after school and she always made me feel confident and hopeful for improvement, even when some days had been a challenge. I would love to provide this type of support to someone who is joining the teaching profession and South Side community. I am a strong believer in the power of collaboration when it comes to the profession of teaching. Every team that I have been on in my teaching career is one filled with trust, shared responsibility, and collaboration. I believe these ingredients are crucial to a successful team.

I'm about to begin my tenth year of teaching fifth grade. I began my teaching career in Hartford at Alfred E. Burr Community School. When Burr transitioned from a K-8 to 6-8 school, I began teaching at South Side. In my last year as a Hartford educator, I was voted Teacher of the year for Burr School. I seek to be a leader on my grade level team, the literacy team, and for all staff members at South Side.

As a lifelong learner, I received my undergraduate degree in Elementary Education at Emmanuel College in Boston. From there, I went on to receive my Master's Degree and Sixth year degree from CCSU in literacy. Therefore, in addition to being certified in grades 1-6, I also have a remedial reading certification for grades 1 through 12. I believe that if I become a trained TEAM mentor, I will specifically be able to support a new teacher in all aspects of literacy. In my classroom at South Side, I have also had multiple aspiring teachers from Bristol Central and Central Connecticut State University spend practicum hours in my room.

The most important quality that will make me a strong TEAM mentor is my behavior management and implementation of strong classroom routines. The foundation for a strong and successful classroom is classroom management. In my tenth year of teaching, I can proudly say that this is one of my biggest strengths. Year after year, I have a classroom filled with students who respect all staff members and their peers. We maximize learning time by always sticking to routines that are strongly implemented from the first day of school. This past year, my grade level teammate spent many hours observing in my classroom and taking best practices back to her room as a first year teacher. She was able to observe my teaching in small group reading, illustrative math lessons, and CREW lessons. Knowing how much she took from this time in my room, leads me to know that I can provide the same to other new teachers as a TEAM mentor.

Thank you for considering my application as a mentor and I look forward to working with new teachers in the district and South Side community!

Sincerely,
Amanda Webster
Grade 5 Teacher
South Side School