

**I recommend approval of:**

Sara Lessard, Art Teacher, Primary School, 1 FTE, Step 1, Lane BA, \$35,664. This position is funded with Integration Revenue pursuant to the District Comprehensive Diversity Plan.

**BECKER SCHOOLS**  
**HIRING RECOMMENDATION FORM**  
**Policy 401 - Equal Employment Opportunity**

1. Position: Certified / Classified / Sch."C" Art Specialist  
(Circle One) Title

New / Replacement Replacing \_\_\_\_\_  
(Circle One)

2. Postings: Internal Date May 20, 2010 External Date June 15, 2010

External Locations \_\_\_\_\_ EdPost \_\_\_\_\_

3. Closing: June 30, 2010  
Date

4. Application

Review: Number of Applications 25

Reviewed By Dale Christensen & E. Bid Heidorf

5. Interview:

Number Interviewed 8 Date of Interviews July 12, 2010

Interviewed By Sara Pumper, Dale Christensen, Joni Svaren, Tracy Hare, Kathy Brinker,  
Jill Johnson, E. Bid Heidorf

6. Recommend to Hire:

Recommended for Employment Sara Lessard

Start Date August 25, 2010

Recommended By: Dale Christensen Date 7/19/10  
Supervisor

Supported By: [Signature] Date 7/19/10  
Superintendent of Schools

Assigned to: Step 1 Lane BA Salary 35,664 Per Hour \_\_\_\_\_

**Attach Resume**

# Sara Lessard

8455 Jewel Avenue North  
Stillwater, MN, 55082  
651.398.4570  
ace83mn@gmail.com

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June 22, 2010

Becker Primary School  
ATTN: Mr. Dale Christensen, Principal  
12000 Hancock Street Becker, MN 55308

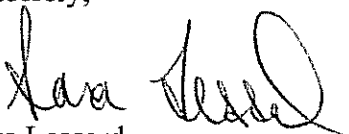
Dear Mr. Dale Christensen:

It is with great anticipation that I present my application materials to you for an Elementary Art Teacher position with the Becker Independent School District. With my educational background and past work experiences I am confident I would be an asset to your school district. Please allow me to outline my qualifications and desire pertaining to the position:

- Generate associations across multiple subject areas, resulting in an interdisciplinary approach that will aid your students to do well on state and local assessments. For example, I bridge together what is being focused on in other classes into the art class after having coworkers explain to me what they are or will be teaching their students.
- Present subject matter in multiple and innovative ways, as to stimulate students' interests and creativity, and thus activate learning. Construct lessons that are interactive by incorporating movement, action, and group interaction.
- Demonstrate flexibility in teaching with the ability to adapt to students needs and learning styles, while still enforcing rules and maintaining a structured environment.
- Learn from the students and build off of their energy while continuing to grow as an educator, challenging both the students and myself.
- Create a learning environment that is interesting, fun, and promotes risk taking because it is more difficult for positive growth to occur when students are not self motivated.

I firmly believe in being involved in my school community well beyond the classroom to provide a supportive and effective learning environment. I would like to contribute showing off students' work through your schools website and displays amongst the community including a public artwork piece outside the schools' walls. Inspiring students to become life-long learners is an essential part to my philosophy of education. Life-long learning not only keeps us growing in all aspects but it gives meaning to our lives. I am a promising hardworking teacher who strives to grow as an educator by constantly reflecting and assessing my ways of interacting with the students in comparison to what is being learned and how it is being learned. It is my goal to combine my range of experience with my ability to be a compassionate, enthusiastic, intelligent teacher who will make a positive contribution to your school district. I look forward to discussing how my qualifications can benefit your schools. I can be reached at 651.398.4570 or by my email. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Sara Lessard

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Science in Secondary Art Education**  
*University of Wisconsin-River Falls, December 2008*  
GPA 3.5/4.0, Senior Merit

**Spanish Intermediate Certification**  
*Escuela de Espanol Entre Volcanes, April 2010*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Volunteer Teacher - Pajaro de Fuego, San Andres Itzapa, Guatemala** *January-April 2010*

- Taught two classes, consisting of over 30 students, with a wide range of academic ability, as students ranged from four to nine years old
- Helped pay for the food and education for the kids at the school since the families could not afford it
- Primarily communicated with families and students by speaking in our second language Spanish
- Designed and helped create a large classroom mural to be used as a visual learning aide for the alphabet and numbers
- Stimulated the students' minds by incorporating movement, music, and action to enhance the lessons
- Resourceful in finding and utilizing materials for art projects

**Substitute Teacher - Multiple School Districts, MN and WI** *2009-present*

- Demonstrated flexibility by filling in for permanent teachers in various subjects and grade levels

**After School Art Teacher - Phalen Lake Elementary, Saint Paul, MN** *Fall 2009-Summer 2009*

- Planned art activities for first, second, and third graders
- Helped organize bus pickup by communicating with the drivers and administration

**Art Student Teacher - Highland Park Senior High School, Saint Paul, MN** *Fall 2009*

- Taught advanced drawing, multimedia, beginning and advanced ceramics
- Introduced and led students through a project based on group collaboration by creating statuettes pertaining to group theme
- Maintained an efficient classroom environment by assigning specific clean up jobs for each student
- Communicated with parents regularly regarding child's performance and established progress goals
- Developed evaluation tool showcasing projects and progress by students with a handmade book of their work and reflections
- Designed lessons incorporating graffiti elements enabling students to respond and evaluate to different types of art forms seen in everyday life

**Art Student Teacher - Phalen Lake Elementary, Saint Paul, MN** *Fall 2008*

- Spearheaded the integration of multi-disciplinary lessons in Native American Culture
- Collaborated with fellow teachers to develop lessons where students created drums and rain sticks used in music class and performance
- Utilized visual images to enhance communication as 77% percent of the students were English Language Learners
- Assisted with school-wide open house by painting a student influenced Hmong design for the library
- Designed an innovative project enabling students to use personal photos to create superhuman images

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE (continued)

### **Abrakadoodle Teacher - New Richmond WI**

**Summer 2006**

- Taught a variety of week long summer art camps/classes to children ages 3 to 12
- Demonstrated a wide variety of different art techniques such as watercolor, food design, sand art, origami, collage, digital photography, puppetry, and sculpture

### **High School Workshop Instructor – University of Wisconsin River Falls Art Department**

**2006 - 2008**

- Developed and facilitated workshop content for ceramics, multimedia, and print-making

## CAMPUS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### **Conference Planner – University of Wisconsin River Falls**

**Spring 2007**

- Helped organize the Wisconsin Art Education Association conference for 200 + Art Educators

### **Gear Up/Get Ready Program Facilitator – University of Wisconsin River Falls**

**Fall 2006**

- Set up field trip, to provide 150 sixth, seventh and eighth graders a pre-college experience
- Collaborated with classmates to organize situational games, and activities for students to motivate them to pursue higher education

### **Guest Speaker - College Techniques Class, University of Wisconsin River Falls**

**Spring 2009**

### **Teaching Assistant - Hastings Middle School, MN**

**Spring 2008**

- Initiated and taught a week long unit to a special needs class where they built and designed their own personal masks

### **Team Teacher - Saint Bridget's Parish Middle School, River Falls, WI**

**Spring 2007**

- Taught a Greek mask making project to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders which they performed

### **Elementary Tutor - Parkway Elementary School, Saint Paul, MN**

**Spring 2006**

- Provided help with reading and writing to 5<sup>th</sup> graders

### **Organizer/Member - Art Society, University of Wisconsin River Falls**

**2006-2008**

## ARTWORK DISPLAYS

### **Artwork Exhibition – “Fast Food Junky,” University of Wisconsin River Falls**

**Spring 2008**

### **Annual Outdoor Exhibitions – University of Wisconsin River Falls**

**Fall of 2006, 2007, 2008**