

Lindsay Gagnon
Ellen P. Hubbell School
Grade 3

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am very interested in participating in TEAM Mentor/Cooperating Teacher training. Currently, I teach third grade at Ellen P. Hubbell School, but I also have 3 years of experience teaching 5th grade at EPH. After graduating from college, I began my teaching career as a long term substitute in a Kindergarten classroom in Waterbury, CT as well as in a 4th grade classroom in Burlington, CT. I knew that I enjoyed teaching from a young age but when working with these elementary aged students felt more like a privilege rather than a chore, I truly knew I chose the perfect career path for myself. I was then hired as a new 5th grade teacher at Hubbell School for the 2018-2019 school year and I have been working for Bristol Public School ever since. At the beginning of my career in BPS, I proceeded to enter the Reading and Language Arts Master's program at Central Connecticut State University and earned my degree as a Reading Specialist in December of 2021. Through my years of teaching so far, I have had amazing mentors who taught me the skills that are not taught in undergraduate or graduate school programs, but are learned through experience. These skills include classroom management, time management, and communication skills with parents, staff and administrators. I would love to be able to share my knowledge gained through these experiences and guide a new teacher in a positive way. I have a repertoire of instructional practices including technology, classroom management, and collaborative skills that will prepare a new teacher for success.

Over the past 5 years of working in a classroom setting, I feel that I have many skills and strategies that a new teacher could benefit from. I have excellent classroom management skills and have learned to build relationships with all of my students. The students in my classroom feel comfortable, cared for, and safe due to the connections I've built and my instruction on SEL strategies. By working so hard to build relationships with these children, I am able to help them reach their full academic potential. I am well-versed in motivating reluctant learners and have consistently moved students from below grade level to grade level expectations. I am also very dedicated to this profession. I am one of the first staff members to arrive in the morning and one of the last to leave. During the time before and after school, my team and I collaborate, analyze data and plan for our scholars' success. We spend countless hours looking at student performance and brainstorming ways to help all students reach grade level expectations. By having the opportunity to be part of our team, a student teacher will learn how to plan, analyze student performance, and learn from our discourse. Another strength of mine is technology. I have used new and innovative technology platforms and incorporated them into my instruction for student success such as integrating the use of PearDeck to reinforce Foundations strategies during WINN. Having worked in schools with great financial need, I am creative in finding ways to fund projects and initiatives that benefit scholars. I have received a grant from The Bristol Education Foundation as well as grants from The Carmine and Frank Mangini Foundation. I am active in the PTA and volunteer for various school-sponsored events throughout the school year. I also serve on Hubbell School's Climate Committee and the District CIIC Committee and provide professional learning to my colleagues based off of my work in these committees. As a teacher, I am continuously looking for ways to continue my learning. I have attended professional development conferences of my choosing and have worked to become a teacher who is consistently reflecting on and learning about new, research-based practices.

In closing, I hope you will consider me for the position of a Team Mentor and Cooperating Teacher. I am passionate about teaching, learning, and am hardworking. I have excellent classroom management, time management and communication skills. I truly believe that all of my experience and work within my school and district would positively impact the career of a new teacher.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Gagnon