

February 17, 2023

TO: Carly Fortin, Director of the Office of Teaching & Learning
FROM: Erin Meyer, BEHS Science Department Chair, Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, AP Biology teacher Grades 10-12
RE: Application to serve as a Cooperating Teacher/TEAM Mentor

My name is Erin Meyer, I have been teaching high school Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, and AP Biology at Bristol Eastern High School since 2010. I participated in the TEAM program as a new teacher. The program and my mentor helped me develop the skills I needed as a new teacher. Those skills helped me build the foundation I needed to continue to grow as an educator. I would like to be trained as a TEAM mentor so I can work with new teachers and help them develop the skills that they too will use for years to come.

A successful mentor needs to be a person who possesses a growth mindset and is a reflective lifelong learner who is always working to improve their practice. I am always looking for ways to grow as an individual and a professional. I recently finished my sixth year and 092 certifications. I would like to become a TEAM mentor so I continue to evolve as a leader and help develop new teachers and educators who will be valuable to our district and profession.

An effective mentor must build a relationship so their mentee feels comfortable and safe to receive constructive feedback. My experience serving as the science department chair has given me the opportunity to work alongside my adult peers during an arduous few years of teaching through the pandemic. I helped lead professional development in person and virtually. I lead our department through revising the curriculum and common assessments to effectively measure student learning both in person and virtually.

An effective teacher takes the whole child into consideration when they are working on planning and implementing their lessons. Over the past five years, there has been a shift in our understanding that if a child does not feel safe and secure physically and emotionally they can not effectively learn. I want to help new educators see and learn how to create an environment that supports the social and emotional well-being of our students.

A constructive teacher is an active member of the school community. Over the course of my career, I have been a member of many school and district-wide committees including the Science National Honor Society mentor, BEHS governance member, and the district CIIC champion team member, attending the Summer Climate Camp. I am currently a member of the BEHS Climate and Culture committee where we continuously collaborate to improve our school for faculty, staff, and students. I am a member of the Crisis team where we work to review procedures to ensure a safe and secure school.

Over the past 12 years, I have worked to surround myself with like-minded individuals who embrace change and also have a growth mindset. I want to be that positive influence and role model for new educators. I believe working as a mentor and cooperating teacher will improve my teaching practice.

Respectfully,
Erin Meyer

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