

October 25, 2019

RE: TEAM new Mentor letter

To Whom It May Concern,

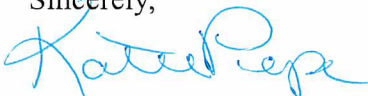
My name is Katie Pepe, and I have been teaching Physical Education to grades six, seven, and eight at Chippens Hill Middle School since September 2007.

During my early years at Chippens Hill, I had the opportunity to be mentored by another Physical Education teacher who helped mold me into the teacher I am today. Like all first year teachers starting their careers, I struggled at times with classroom management. However, with the help from my mentor, I quickly developed strategies that worked with my students. He took the time to coach me through my struggles so I could develop my teaching philosophy, and ultimately made me the teacher I am today. Without his guidance, I would have been lost in my first couple of years. I would like to become trained as a mentor/cooperating teacher because I would like to have the same type of impact with a first year teacher.

I have also had the opportunity to help train a teacher substitute this past school year. With one of my co-workers being out on medical leave, my department had a long term substitute who was unfamiliar with teaching, and our subject content. I always made it a point to help her with management skills, and created daily lesson plans. She would ask me to observe her and provide feedback, sometimes on a daily basis. She struggled with the delivery of a lesson, and would ask for guidance so the students could complete the objective. I enjoyed working with her, providing feedback, and witnessing her growth. For those reasons, I would like to become mentor/cooperating teacher trained.

I believe I have much to offer a student or beginning teacher. I have faced the challenges that a student/beginning teacher will face, and have come out a stronger teacher and person because of my mentors. Within my tenure at Chippens Hill Middle School, I have had to change my teaching pedagogy many times. Teaching is a constant work in progress. However, with my years of experience, I feel like I am finally at a point in my career where I feel strong enough to mentor. Since the inception of the Connecticut Common Core of Teaching rubric, I have earned the status of exemplar teacher. I also attend outside professional development through the Connecticut Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance conference. I attend this conference on a yearly basis and have done so the past twelve years. I have also been a presenter twice at the conference. I am the Athletic Coordinator at Chippens Hill since 2014. This role demands me to work with the adult coaching staff, and officials on almost a daily basis. I have been very successful in this position, which shows that I can lead and work with adult learners. I would like to be placed in a situation where I can now become a mentor, and help guide student and first year teachers.

Sincerely,



Katie Pepe