

Lauren Gonzalez

Stafford School

Fourth Grade Teacher

laurengonzalez@bristol12.org

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### **Why I want to become a Mentor/Cooperating Teacher**

I am writing to express my interest in applying to become a Cooperating Teacher/TEAM Mentor. Since becoming a teacher I have always wanted to share my knowledge and insights with others, helping to guide them and support them. I not only enjoy teaching young minds, but I want to also help teach those who want to join this profession. I have had some amazing mentors who truly inspired and supported me in my journey to becoming a teacher, that I too, wish to be that for beginning teachers.

### **What I have to offer to a student or beginning teacher**

I have been working in the Bristol Public Schools for a total of eleven years, and hold a Provisional Educator Certificate (K-6). Of those eleven years, one year was spent as the Literacy Intern at Stafford Elementary School, two years were spent as a substitute teacher for the district and the remaining eight years I have been teaching in Grades 1, 3, and 4 at Stafford Elementary School.

Since I have had the opportunity to teach in many grades and settings, including but not limited to long term positions in both Literacy and Special Education, I feel I have a wide range of knowledge and experiences to share with beginning teachers. While working as the Literacy Intern for Grades K-5, I collaborated with the other Instructional Support teachers as well as the Literacy Coach within the school. I learned valuable skills in teaching reading, and how to support struggling readers. These are insights that I will be able to share as I mentor beginning teachers. Teaching in various grades within the elementary schools allows me to share insights with beginning teachers on not only the grade level we will be working in, but also grades that proceed and follow us. I will be able to help future teachers see where their students came from academically, and where they need to go.

### **Ability to work cooperatively as a team member to aid the professional growth of a student or beginning teacher**

Being at Stafford Elementary School for more than eight years has given me the opportunity to establish meaningful working relationships with my colleagues. During my time in each school, and more so here at Stafford, I have worked collaboratively with many staff members to support and enhance my teaching as well as helping me to better the learning of my students. These relationships will help me to give a wide range of support to new teachers as I show them the ways our Math and Literacy Coaches, Instructional Support Teachers, other classroom teachers, the Special Education team, the Social Worker and School Psychologist all work together to guide and support our students in various ways.

### **Ability to relate effectively to adult learners**

Early in my teaching career, I chose to further my education and receive my masters degree in the area of Education through Technology. As I saw technology being used more within the schools I wanted to further my

knowledge on the best ways in which to incorporate and use technology to enhance my students' learning. During COVID, I was able to utilize my learning to not only help my students learn remotely, but also help my teammates who struggled with the advancements in technology. I was able to share my knowledge with them, and also held informal training sessions with them via Zoom to show them how to use all the new technology. During this time I also signed up to present in the Technology Ed Camp held within the district. There I shared my "Tips and Tricks with Seesaw" to staff around the district.

#### **Ability to be reflective and articulate about the craft of teaching**

As mentioned previously, I have taught in three different grades, Grades 1, 3 and 4. The biggest change for me was my move from First Grade to Fourth Grade. This move came with discussions from my administrator who felt I would be an asset to the upper grades. Through this conversation and reflections on my teaching, I made the move to Fourth Grade. While in this position I have been the most reflective of my teaching. Striving to improve and really hone my teaching craft. Through each of my observations during both Literacy and Math Learning Walks, I took the suggestions and guidance of the observing team. I met with both the Math and Literacy coaches for further guidance on the best ways to implement the techniques suggested. I truly feel that my teaching craft grew and developed with each observation.

#### **Service on school-based and district committees**

While at Stafford Elementary I have served on the school based Data Team. Our team looked at both Literacy and Math data to reflect and respond to our students' learning. After meeting with the team each member would go back to their grade level teams and share the insights and learning we just acquired.

Most recently, I now serve as the Science Lead for my school. This is a new position I sought out so that I could further help my colleagues here at Stafford. This position allows me to help each grade level team make sure they have all that they need for their Science Bundles, as well as address any issues or concerns they may have. I act as their first point of contact for them if they encounter questions or issues with the Science Curriculum. While in this position I have participated in district meetings with [Jillian Romann](#) and other Science Leads throughout the district, as well as shared information with my staff during Staff Meetings.

I feel that my drive, dedication and passion for teaching and learning make me a prime candidate to serve as a Cooperating Teacher/TEAM mentor. I understand and am ready to take on the responsibility that will come with my role as a mentor to provide a new teacher with the guidance, support, and resources that they need to be successful in all aspects of teaching.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lauren Gonzalez