



ADELPHI UNIVERSITY
Garden City • New York • 11530

Ruth S. Ammon
School of Education
Phone: (516) 877-
4077
Fax: (516) 877-4097

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Ms. Jeanna Dressel for a position as an art teacher in your school. Ms. Dressel was a student of mine in the School of Visual Arts' Masters program in Art Education this year. I taught the special education foundations course and the literacy course as well as supervised her work on the edTPA, a professional portfolio for certification. Since then, I have had conversations with Ms. Dressel about her career plans and her experiences the visual arts, and her experiences with students as an educator. As a result of that contact, I believe I am in a position to effectively evaluate her potential for a position.

Ms. Dressel was one of the strongest students in terms of her interest in and ability to integrate art content and pedagogy, Her deep knowledge of all art forms, her ability to challenge and inspire students with her creative teaching, and her own interest in learning, which continues to be an ongoing strength of hers. Her knowledge of learning strategies for differentiating her teaching to meet diverse student needs were well beyond my expectations as her teacher. She demonstrated to me that she is able to effectively use her knowledge of others' needs in delivering lessons in a wide range of art media, to use of student achievement and work to inform her instruction, and to utilize her art-making.

A particular strength is her ability to integrate work in creative lessons that are both useful and thought-provoking. Her scholarly work and her ability to draw from multiple disciplines in development of instructional plans is very apparent. She is also a strong writer and enthusiastic about learning, both of which contribute to her work as a facilitator of others' learning. Ms. Dressel is unquestionably one of the more thoughtful, thorough, and deeply inquisitive students I have known at the School of Visual Arts. Her mastery of pedagogy and curriculum in the arts--combined with her experiences that she has already undertaken with a variety of roles as an artist and educator--would make her a very strong candidate for your consideration. She is a demanding yet engaging teacher and demands a great deal of herself, as well.

I give her a very enthusiastic recommendation to you in support of her candidacy for a teaching position. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Devin G. Thornburg, Ph.D.
Adelphi University
Adjunct Professor, School of Visual Arts/Art Education (MA)