

To Whom It May Concern:

I had the pleasure of being one of Jeanna Dressel's professors at the School of Visual Arts last fall semester, 2015. The course, Art For Special Populations, is an exceptionally important part of the Graduate Art and Design program at SVA for several reasons. First it is taught in a homeless shelter on Manhattan's Lower East Side where our graduate students come face to face with the results of poverty and domestic abuse. Second because the young students live in a shelter and the ages are 4 to 14, SVA students are presented with many problems in public schools, non-English speakers, siblings, trauma victims and issues of early childhood as well as adolescence, to name a few. So it is an all-inclusive pre-service student teaching experience.

SVA students write at least one of their own lesson plans and become the lead teacher. They are also called upon to support their peers in the lessons of others. Students do weekly readings and journaling as well as write a ten page research paper for the conclusion of the class. When they first arrive at the shelter, it is with some trepidation and fear of the unknown. Yet by the end of the course, they have often developed meaningful relationships with the children, which help to dispel the concerns of everyone.

Jeanna's participation in this course was exemplary. She fulfilled all the expectations of the course with joy and a genuine regard for others. Her own lesson was wonderful and her paper exemplary. However one of her strongest suits was her ability to work with others. There were numerous times when Jeanna jumped in to help her classmates in ways that showed insight and sensitivity. I could always count on her to be a team player. She was also there at the shelter in a timely manner every week and accepted what were some incredible challenges.

In short, I cannot recommend her more highly. Please contact me if you have any more specific questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sandra Edmonds, EdD

sje8cheval@twc.com

914 980-4048