



MINSTER HIGH SCHOOL

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minsterschools.org

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To whom it may concern:

I have had the fortune of knowing Alexis Blum for nearly twenty years: when she was a student in my 8th grade English class and more recently when Alexis became a trusted coworker at Minster High School. The qualities I admired and respected in Alexis as a young, junior high student have morphed into even stronger qualities as an adult. In the summer of 2019, she and I worked together to sponsor a student trip to Europe. Sometimes life connects us in unexpected ways, and this is what has happened with our relationship as it has transformed from student to coworker to friend. As a result of my interactions with Alexis, I am thrilled to be able to recommend her for any position she chooses to pursue.

First, let me explain a little about the community in which we teach: Minster is an extremely small town with around 4000 inhabitants, and needless to say, the tightly knit community is very stereotypical of many small communities where "everyone knows everyone," doors are generally left unlocked, and people feel safe and are willing to become somewhat secluded in the small town environment. Growing up in a very similar community, I had never traveled outside of the United States, something I had always imagined. Alexis is a role model who inspires me as well as her students to pursue those dreams. Her studies abroad and her excitement for different cultures have become a springboard for studies of foreign language and a thirst for firsthand experience in cultures unlike our own. Her courage in pursuing these experiences began much earlier in life when she studied abroad, but even though I am much older, she made me realize that it is never too late to realize similar dreams.

Alexis's students are lucky to participate in a similar pursuit. Students are excited for Spanish class as they are able to not only learn the language but participate in the language and the culture in meaningful ways. Her enthusiasm is contagious! Walking by her open classroom door, I witness deep conversations, role playing, singing, and reading Spanish literature among too many activities to list. Alexis realizes that students are there for the knowledge but also the experience of a foreign culture. This enthusiasm is carried outside of the classroom. As Alexis has made the curriculum her own, she has added numbers of students, many pursuing the Spanish curriculum into their senior year of high school and beyond.

A final quality that needs mentioning is that Alexis is a foreign language department of one, but this does not limit her interactions with other Spanish teachers. She has built relationships with other professionals outside our district in a quest to actively improve the quality of her program.

It is because of Alexis's positive attitude and ability to broaden cultural awareness and experience that I am pleased to recommend her. I have had the unique opportunity to watch her grow from a student receiving instructions to someone who leads me to pursue an education I had only imagined. This is who Alexis Blum is. She is a powerful and positive influence in any environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy S. Rindler

High School English Teacher

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