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Art Education Evaluation for Alanna Gaylord
Tina Logan, Cooperating Teacher
Albert D. Lawton Intermediate School, Essex Junction VT

For the past school semester (beginning in Late August and ending early December) I have worked closely with Alanna Gaylord as her cooperating teacher in art education. Her assignment with me was to teach art to grades 6-8 at the Albert D. Lawton Intermediate School in Essex Junction, Vermont. Alanna taught 5 art classes a day with approximately 25 students per class. The students had art every day for a six or four and a half week cycle. Art classes were roughly 45 minutes in length. The following is an evaluation summary based on my observations of and interactions with Alanna and the UVM's internship evaluation form.

Knowledge: Alanna is extremely proficient and experienced working in both two and three dimensional mediums. This was made evident by the quality of work her students produced under her guidance and direction. Alanna also has a strong knowledge of art history and the elements and principles of design. Alanna did an outstanding job introducing new concepts, techniques and art styles to the students. Alanna clearly has a passion for sharing her knowledge and expertise with her students and has a gift for teaching and fostering their own creativity and expression through different media. Alanna's lessons were engaging and appropriate for all the grades she taught. They were innovative, rich in medium and meaning. Students were introduced to the world of art in a fun, meaningful, yet advanced way through Alanna's style of teaching! Students were very proud of their accomplishments and finished work under Alanna's direction.

Planning/Instruction: I have had many student teachers but I have to say that Alanna stands out among the very best in her planning and instruction. Alanna thinks of every possible detail when planning a lesson. She is just as thorough when implementing them with her students as well. Her lessons were inspiring, thought provoking and exciting! They were age appropriate yet advanced at the same time. Alanna did a wonderful job making her lessons challenging, yet still attainable. I was always impressed with the quality of work each student produced under Alanna's guidance.

Alanna introduced lessons with wonderful powerpoints, video clips and various visuals. She has strong technology and design skills and her presentations were amazing! Alanna would also follow up her lessons with visual samples and demonstrations. Alanna has made learning about art fun for students. Sometimes they would draw from a hat to receive their assignment and other times special challenges were given to students to spark their interest and motivation. Alanna was always meticulously organized, planned, resourceful and thoughtful when preparing her lessons. All lessons were connected to the New National Core Arts Standards and her objectives were always clearly communicated to her students.

Teacher/Pupil Interaction: Another one of Alanna's many strengths is her compassion and sensitivity to students' needs. She was very in tune to help meet the needs of all her students and would accommodate her lessons or expectations accordingly. Alanna always made it a priority to work one-on-one with students who needed extra support, whether it was emotional or physical. She instinctively knows what it takes and how to help her students feel successful and excited about their work. During class time, Alanna was always offering assistance, checking for understanding and making herself available for all students. Alanna has a gift for connecting with her students. It was evident by the way they treated her and wanted to spend every bit of extra time that they had working on art projects with her in the art room. It was also evident by gifts of drawings she received from her students. This speaks volumes at the middle school level!

Alanna is a caring and compassionate educator and this goes a long way with adolescent learners. You can not fool them. They know which teachers genuinely care and Miss Alanna does! From the start Alanna worked on getting to know her students, working with them individually and establishing a positive rapport with them. Students responded well to Alanna when she was in charge. She had an authoritative presence but in a very caring and respectful way. Students listened to her because she was genuine and fair. Alanna was effective and very respectful in her interactions with students. She greeted each class in a cheerful way and thoroughly enjoyed working with them each and every day. Alanna did a fantastic job establishing her presence in the classroom and setting a special tone and working relationship with her students.

Classroom Climate: As stated earlier, Alanna was meticulous in her planning and preparation for each lesson and class. She was always set up and prepared to greet each class as they entered the room. Her greetings were always warm and cheerful. Alanna set the tone at the beginning of each class by taking attendance, greeting everyone and giving them gentle reminders on the respectful and constructive working environment she expected to see. Alanna created a warm nurturing environment for her students. Each time I entered a class that she was leading, I would see a room full of students working constructively and fully engaged. There would be a creative hum about the room as Alanna worked with her students. Alanna was great at recognizing each student and their individual needs were always addressed. She would modify her lessons or expectations to fit the needs of each student so that they would maintain their interest in their project and feel successful! Alanna still maintained high expectations for her students while also remaining realistic. She has a gift for making each student feel like a real artist and it was evident in the work they produced and the pride they displayed.

Alanna contributed to our school community by taking opportunities to display wonderful art in our school. She also spent many hours at school preparing for lessons and helping out with school wide activities. Another way that Alanna fostered a positive class climate and rapport with her students was by taking time to work with students and helping them on projects during her planning and prep time. Alanna was a fantastic role model for our students. She connected to so many of them and she is sorely missed right now.

Classroom Management: Alanna managed the classroom in a very positive, upbeat yet controlled manner. She has a gentle, fun and caring demeanor with her students. Right from the beginning Alanna was comfortable with the students and worked hard to establish a positive rapport with them. She set a warm tone for her classes and students took to her right away. They responded to her quite respectfully. This is an accomplishment with middle schoolers! Alanna's classes ran like clockwork. Expectations were made clear at the beginning of each class. She would pause and wait for polite listeners and use a confident voice when speaking. It was clear, commanding yet calming at the same time. Alanna was very consistent with following school rules and monitored classroom behaviors consistently. Not much got by Alanna in terms of behavior in class. She was fantastic at anticipating potential disruptions or problems and planned accordingly. Whether it was creating a special seating chart, minimizing introduction times or creating diversions or interesting distractions to keep students engaged and interested. If she encountered a behavioral or emotional situation, it was attended to immediately. Alanna was comfortable talking to students about their behavior when the need arose and she handled matters in a fair, respectful and professional manner. Behavioral situations were minimal in Alanna's class because her lessons were exciting and very engaging. Alanna managed classes beautifully!

Assessment: Alanna designed and used various approaches for assessment. Often she would informally assess students learning and prior knowledge with formative assessments such as practice design sheets, or initiating dialogue with a question and answer technique. Alanna always had questions for her students that were reflective and thought provoking. As for summative assessments, Alanna assessed each student

regularly on their work habits with a rubric. She also designed rubrics for each lesson using the National Visual Arts Standards to complete at the end of each lesson or unit. Before each lesson, Alanna was very clear to students about which standards they were working on and what learning targets were being addressed. Students were made very aware of their responsibilities for each lesson. Not only did Alanna assess her students regularly, she also assessed her own progress frequently through seeking out my input regarding her lessons, approaches and student concerns. Alanna is a very conscientious educator who is always striving to be her best at all times. Her professionalism, passion and compassion impressed me everyday!

Professional Responsibilities and Personal attributes: In conclusion, I have to say that Alanna did an exemplary job with her internship! Her dedication, work ethic, professionalism, and passion as an art educator was exceptional! Alanna stands out among the many interns I have had over the years!

Alanna immersed herself in our school community right from the start. She established a strong rapport with students and colleagues and put countless hours into her planning and preparation for her lessons. She went above and beyond with school responsibilities and made a large impact with our whole school community. Alanna attended school-wide events, collaborated with a teacher on a special interdisciplinary project and spent many hours working with students after school and during her prep and planning times. She has left a hole and we are all missing her creativity, energy and presence!

Alanna was always early to school, reliable and dependable! She put 110% in everything she did! Alanna is a self starter, go getter, thorough and meticulous in everything she does. She is a thoughtful, kind, compassionate professional who puts kids best interests above all! She is mature beyond her years with insight and professionalism. Alanna has incredible creativity and enthusiasm. Her instincts and intuition serve her well in the classroom. Alanna makes learning about art interesting and fun. She is a gifted teacher and is ready for her own position!

Recommended final grade for art internship: A+

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Logan