



East Lansing Public Schools

**Red Cedar Elementary School
1110 Narcissus
East Lansing, MI 48823**

March 19, 2010

Dear Kelley Peatross,

I am writing to recommend Megan Carnaghi be hired for an elementary teaching position. Ms. Carnaghi was a Michigan State University intern teacher in my kindergarten classroom. She was placed in my Red Cedar classroom from August 2009 to present. Red Cedar is located near Michigan State University. Students come from more than 50 countries and as many states. These characteristics make Red Cedar ethnically and economically diverse.

Ms. Carnaghi assumed teaching responsibilities in all areas. She was responsible for planning and teaching lessons as well as managing the classroom community. Ms. Carnaghi demonstrated organization and management skills and developed a professional rapport with students, parents, and other teachers in the building.

Ms. Carnaghi entered the classroom and immediately became part of the learning process by working with me and other staff members in our building to assess and evaluate the needs of each student. Ms. Carnaghi was willing to learn and use current classroom procedures and strategies, as well as try new innovative teaching strategies, which would best fit the needs of all our students. She was eager to help the children learn and grow. She spoke to the children in a way that they could understand and she helped them to learn to appreciate all of the diversity in the classroom and school.

Ms. Carnaghi covered two units based on the district curriculum goals and objectives during her lead teaching. These units were Economics and Health. She also taught the Language Arts units of Nursery Rhymes, Fairy Tales, and created units on Jan Brett and Tomie de Paola. Her lessons were well thought out, creative, and had meaningful activities for the children. Ms. Carnaghi took into consideration the needs of the students and included many differentiated activities that were based on the students' capabilities. Observing her lessons, I always noticed the children were actively engaged in their learning. She easily maintained their attention when reading stories or giving directions to an activity. Ms. Carnaghi supported their learning by interacting with the children when they were completing independent activities such as writing, reading, and mathematics. She was always willing to help those that needed her assistance.

Megan's expertise in the area of technology helped her to utilize the schools technology by incorporating the document reader, projector, and SmartBoard into her lessons. She used these technologies to model writing, demonstrate word work activities, and explore content areas topics. Megan also created stories with the children using the program Photo Story.

Ms. Carnaghi is organized and has good classroom management skills. She implemented a classroom management system that supports the development of self-discipline. When discipline issues arose, Ms. Carnaghi addressed each one as a teaching opportunity, maintaining the dignity of the child. She would reflect on the child's behavior, react to it, and then redirect him/her. This made the child feel safe, secure, and valued as an individual.

Developing a professional rapport with her students was one of Ms. Carnaghi's strengths. I observed her working with the children in a professional manner, supporting those that needed extra support and challenging others. She worked with a diverse group of children and treated each one with respect and as capable of learning.

Ms. Carnaghi's skills as an organized manager, as well as her eagerness and ability to develop professional relationships with her students, their parents, and other staff members, make her an excellent teacher. She would be an asset to any school district. I strongly recommend Megan Carnaghi be hired for any position she seeks in the district.

Sincerely,
Tami Teszlewicz