



CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL
NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to endorse Cathy Ash's application for Librarian with your organization. I have worked with Cathy for nearly 10 years at Irvington High School in Fremont, CA. Ms. Ash's motivation, willingness to help and understanding of teacher's needs are top notch. She has a very diverse set of skills including a superb understanding of technology. She will be an asset and make an immediate positive impact on your program.

Ms. Ash has experience working as an English teacher in an interdisciplinary setting, a manager and designer for a technology company, and as a librarian for a comprehensive high school. She brings all of these experiences to bear as she works to serve the school community. Ms. Ash takes an active interest in the curriculum on campus. She regularly interviewed me to understand the units in my classroom. As she gained understanding of my class, she went out of her way to organize book selections for my students, purchase new books for the library that we might need, and send me news articles and websites of interest. Curiosity, willingness to help teachers, and fantastic service are the reasons why Irvington's library won every district level award for library service last year.

Ms. Ash's technology expertise has been a tremendous asset to Irvington's community. In advance of major grade level projects, she has prepared PowerPoint presentations to help students conduct research, write essays, cite sources, and more. She has created a number of school websites to give students instant access to resources targeted for specific projects. Most importantly, Ms. Ash has developed the reputation on campus as the "go-to" person when students are having computer trouble. She has spent countless hours helping students recover "lost" data. She is an expert at helping students navigate the different software programs so that they may print a research paper that was created in Microsoft Works when all the teacher computers only read Microsoft Word. During major project deadlines, she has been known to set up a "crisis center" for students that provides last minute help, tissues to dry their tears, and bit of chocolate to lift their spirits.

Although Irvington will be very sad to see Cathy Ash move on, I understand this is a very good opportunity for her. It is also a great opportunity for your district to pick up an excellent librarian.

Sincerely,


Nate Ivy

American Studies Teacher

2007 Fremont Unified School District Teacher of the Year

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