



Keet Gooshi Heen Elementary School

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"Providing our children with the academic, social, and emotional skills needed to reason and communicate responsibly in society."

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to highly recommend Chris Bryner for any position he is qualified for. Mr. Bryner epitomizes everything that exceptional teachers stand for in his teaching practices and techniques, interactions with students, collaboration with other teachers and outreach with our community and even the world beyond our community.

Mr. Bryner is constantly researching and keeping himself up to date on best teaching practices and is unafraid to try new things. For instance, Mr. Bryner focuses on developing the whole student in his teaching practices and brings Social Emotional Learning into the class through class meetings, cooperative learning and group problem solving activities through game play and academic projects. Recently, Mr. Bryner has begun implementing Restorative Justice Practices into his class meetings to help students understand how their actions, thoughts and words have a direct impact on their classroom in either a positive or negative way. Mr. Bryner has also taken a leadership role in bringing awareness about restorative justice practices throughout our building and district.

One of Mr. Bryner's greatest strengths as a teacher is his ability to connect with kids. Not only does he connect deeply with his student's on a personal level, but he takes time each day to seek out students throughout our school and get to know them. On a typical day, you will see Mr. Bryner smiling and laughing with students in the hall, organizing a huge game of zombie tag on the playground, playing football with students on the playground and taking time to stop by the office on his lunch break to talk and connect with a student who may be having a hard day or made a poor choice. He is excellent at helping students process and understand how their choices impact others in both positive and negative ways. Each year, Mr. Bryner requests some of our most challenging students to be placed in his classroom because he feels he has made a connection with them through the examples given above.

Mr. Bryner brings experiential learning into his classroom through collaboration with other teachers and the use of worldly resources. For example, last school year, Mr. Bryner used his classroom funds to bring two downtown Seattle restaurant owners into his classroom to develop math and writing skills through a pizza making project. One of the husband and wife team worked with students to make the pizza and then students did a writing unit on the process and experience the students had. Parents were then invited into the classroom to enjoy the fruits of the student's work. As a lead up math lesson and surprise to the couple, Mr. Bryner collaborated with another teacher in our school and his students recreated the couple's restaurant in mind craft using area and perimeter skills they had learned in an earlier math unit.

Mr. Bryner's dedication to our students, school, district and the teaching profession is evident in his participation as a member of our professional development committee and our technology committee. His work is instrumental in providing opportunities for teachers to develop their skills and pursue their interests as professionals. As a technology committee member, he works to ensure that our students have access to the technology they need to be digital citizens.

Mr. Bryner exudes and excels at all the qualities that make a great teacher. His connections with kids, ability to be a team player, desire to utilize best practices, and to use technology to connect our students to the world make him a great candidate for any position he is qualified for.

Casey Demmert, Principal