

ALDEANE RIES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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To whom it may concern,

It is with my greatest pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Mrs. Burian, our Art Teacher. She has transformed from a new, unsure teacher into an exemplary leader at our school campus. She has masterfully learned to write lesson plans, embed technology, weave in classroom management techniques, and serve on committees that strengthen student achievement. Her passion and work ethic have inspired many colleagues to reach higher and achieve at their ultimate potentials. She integrates the Nevada Academic Content Standards into her lessons and assists teachers with their plans involving art and math concepts. Mrs. Burian's confidence level has increased tremendously, thus allowing her to step out of her role as a one-room art teacher. She was able to expand on what we are doing as a school to make this a community of learners while promoting the arts.

Mrs. Burian has put her heart and soul into providing an Art Show for three years at Ries ES. All of the students and parents and members of the community attended. Cleverly she created grade level walls of art work that she saved during the year and attached the name of the artist that the students were trying to emulate. The real pieces of the art work done by the artist (copies), art vocabulary words, and the art standards are attached. Black light art work was even hung down a specific wall sheltered by black curtains and gallery walkers used flash lights to see the art explode off the pages in neon greens, neon yellows, neon blues, etc. The walls looked like a real art gallery and no one wanted to see the art taken down. Therefore, Mrs. Burian came up with a fantastic plan.

She went to numerous local businesses and got them to donate black, glass, picture frames. With the frames, she made permanent displays of art displays throughout the building. Undeniably, with this process, she morphed a rather new, vacant building into one that embodied creativity, imagination, dreams, and academic standards. The students loved the idea that they would have their art work permanently displayed at Ries ES. Our school never looked better with matted frames in carefully designed lay outs. Ries ES was even heralded by our Superintendent, Pat Skorkowsy, as having one of the most beautiful campuses in the elementary realm depicted the love of children and student work.

On her own time, after school, Mrs. Burian had a fifth grade Art Club. The Art Club was responsible for numerous murals located in the building. One year she did individual rocket tiles framed by a purple border. Another year, she did a tile mosaic picture with her students that showed a large hand reaching for the stars. The next year, she did an abstract display that emphasized the Josh Stevens Be Kind theme in the building targeting students to care about one another. Finally, last year, she created her last mural that depicted the school mission statement and motto. All of her pieces that she created with the students are one-of-a-kind art masteries.

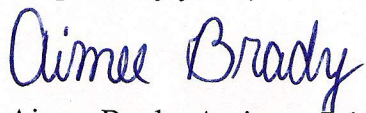
During Christmas time, she created a Ries ornament for the Performance Zone. The ornament was made out of special clay. Mrs. Burian created our logo using the clay with a rocket and a gold circular piece that spelled out Ries Rockets. The ornament was so well done that the Performance Zone called to ask if we had anymore. A parent that was at the front office checking her child out for the day, offered to purchase the piece. In other words, not only can Mrs. Burian teach art, she can create art like a professional artist.

To help with student attendance, she created a Perfect Attendance Rocket that will be implemented this year. Each teacher will color in a letter to spell out "Perfect Attendance". Once the banner is complete, the teacher will write their name on the completed copy, and turn it in. The class will be rewarded for being 100% here from the prize menu she created. Mrs. Burian showed initiative to come up with the idea on her own to target our SPF (School Performance Framework) where we lost points in the attendance category.

Legacy is something that seems complex to teachers especially when we ask them what they want to be known for or leave behind. Mrs. Burian, without a doubt, left her legacy behind at Ries ES. She left her legacy on our walls, around our courtyard, hanging up in the multi-purpose room, and in our front office. Mrs. Burian's legacy was her love for the arts and her belief that every person in a building can make a difference. She went the extra mile and gave 110%. To work in a building is to LOVE the building and take ownership in everything you do. Mrs. Burian knew that and today, because of her, we have the most amazing walls and art creations that I have ever seen.

It is with my highest recommendation that Mrs. Burian continue to brighten the lives of others with her art, her instruction, and her leadership. She was an exemplary art teacher and team player at Ries ES. We loved having her as a staff member and enjoyed watching her beautify our walls. Her art displays went further than their placement on our walls; they dug down deeper and permanently attached to our hearts.

Respectfully yours,



Aimee Brady, Assistant Principal