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My name is Jason Yip and I am the university supervisor for Eman Haggag. I am a former science and math teacher with seven years experience. I have taught in schools ranging from poor urban districts, affluent independent schools, and large public suburban institutions. It is my privilege to write this recommendation for Eman. Working and observing her for the past year has been truly a great experience for me. She has been working with regular chemistry classes composed of mainly ethnic minority students. Eman has grown in her teaching and I would like to highlight several aspects of her work in this letter.

To begin, I would like to positively emphasize Eman's natural speaking and presentation skills. Teaching new educators to stand up in front of a class is a challenge. Some are timid while others do not seem to initially connect with the students. Presentation skills are difficult to be taught. However, Eman stands and delivers as if she has taught for years. She is an enthusiastic speaker that is able to engage her students. Her body language, tone, and pace sets the right learning atmosphere. Though sometimes her class can get chatty, Eman's calm, yet exuberant manner always brings them back to where they need to be. When groups of students might be off task, she walks straight over to them and is able to encourage them back to the task. She establishes strong presence in the class and the students show respect to her. Classroom management is not an issue for her. Her confidence comes forth and she is able to balance when to speak and when to listen to her students.

Her presentation skills are only complemented by her lesson planning ability. In the most recent two observations I have made, I have seen her use "Egg Clicker" technology to get students to answer questions, pull out 3-D models of atoms, present lessons using animations of molecules, and lead great discussions on topics that would normally bore students. She works with a population of students that can be very difficult and would challenge even veteran teachers. The fact that the lessons are also an hour and a half long and done through block schedule makes it even more daunting. However, Eman has her lessons organized and paced just right. The activities within the lessons flow fluidly and you would never guess that the time went by so fast. As she moves through her lessons, she is constantly checking and assessing their progress through questions and answers. Her questions have variety and are scaffolded for all levels of students. The students are never fearful to ask her questions; their hands are raised constantly. They are mainly motivated and engaged with her lesson.

As I mentioned before, Eman's use of technology never feels out of place. One example I would like to briefly use is her use of animations of molecules. The students in her class were learning about a very abstract chemistry topic called intermolecular forces. I have seen many chemistry teachers ruin this lesson by being dry, boring and unorganized. Eman has a great ability to be able to understand what the kids see; in short, she has the gift of empathy. In order to connect the notes she wrote down, Eman showed and analyzed several aspects of the phenomena using computer animations she found on the web. Rather than just passively show the video, Eman was able to engage in inquiry through discussion. She led them through what they observed, what claims they could make, and what the final reasoning was for the phenomena. In short, Eman's talent for breaking tough topics down into "chewable" pieces allows her students to stay on task with her. In my years of teaching, I have noticed that when students are bored, lost, or disengaged in a lesson, discipline problems arise. In short, Eman does not have these problems simply because she knows how to make abstract concepts more concrete for the students. And of course, like all good teachers, she knows when to inject a fun joke or story to help the kids through these hard to swallow lessons.

In short, Eman is a gifted and natural educator that will go far in her career. She will be an asset to any district, school and classroom. I highly recommend Eman for the school of choice. Please email me for any additional questions or concerns you might have about Eman Haggag.

Sincerely,

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