

Arcadia Elementary School

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am happy to write this letter of recommendation for Jackie Benavides, Guest Teacher, at Arcadia Elementary. Jackie substituted here in 4th grade for a short stint and is long-term subbing in 1st grade.

Jackie accepted teaching assignments on short notice; when she subbed in fourth grade, she crafted lesson plans and activities herself, while also consulting with her grade colleagues. Students responded appropriately to her, and she also worked productively with patrons.

As a teacher, Jackie is firm, fair, and considerate to her students. In first grade now, Jackie has established positive classroom management, with set expectations, routines, rewards and consequences. Even her more active students respond positively to her. She uses proximity in seat assignments to keep her eye on struggling students. Jackie is mindful of student health concerns and teams well with the parents of those students. With consistent effort, she replaced uncertainty in parents' minds with trust and confidence. First-graders in her room have stability now, after their teacher's illness. Jackie handles conflict firmly and interacts positively to defuse tensions and misunderstanding in patrons.


Instructionally, Jackie uses whole- and small-group instruction in first grade. She designs lessons and hands-on activities that are developmentally appropriate for first-graders. Jackie focuses on active student engagement and assesses her students during activity time. Jackie works instructional interventions for struggling students and reduced the number of intensives in her class. She owns her students and the growth they are making.

Jackie responds actively to school-based decisions and professional development. She attends PLC sessions and also actively maintains a blog for her class. She teams well with her grade level and reading specialists, and also enlisted the voluntary services of her daughter in her classroom. Although substitute-teaching is harder for new teachers at a school, Jackie fits well with the faculty at Arcadia. She has become one of us, working on her regular routines and responsibilities.

I am confident that Jackie Benavides will bring instructional and learning focus to any classroom assignment she receives, and I support her employment in doing so. Please feel free to contact me with your questions at 385-646-4758, or by email at ccjabakumar@graniteschools.org.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Dr. Cecilia Jabakumar, Principal

