



# GRANGER HIGH SCHOOL

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**HOME OF THE LANCERS**



To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Brianne Dobson. Brianne is student of Utah Valley University and has been my English Language Arts student teacher for the past few months at Granger High School in West Valley City, Utah. Brianne is currently teaching my sophomore regular and honors classes, and she is doing an absolutely amazing job at it.

Granger High School is the largest high school in the state of Utah. We are a Title 1 school and can claim a student body population of over 3,000 students. 50% of these students are minority students, are on free and reduced lunch, and are reading on a far below basic level. Needless to say, Granger High School offers teachers a challenging and diverse group of students. I choose to teach in this environment because I love a challenge, and I appreciate and thrive in situations that require creative and innovative practices. Brianne, I was please to discover, feels much the same way as I do. This belief in finding viable solutions to the difficult problems facing Title 1 schools and reaching disadvantaged students is what has really made Brianne stand out as one of the best student teachers I have ever had the privilege of mentoring.

Brianne has many strengths as an educator. She, first and foremost, is able to build a rapport of respect with her students quickly and easily. She is kind, patient, and considerate with all students. She shows the students respect by how she speaks to them, how she listens to them, and how she grades their progress towards mastery. I have not, nor have our students, ever seen her lose her calm demeanor, her sense of humor, or her sense of self. She is steady in her delivery of a lesson and responsive to the many and various needs of the students. She displays more grace as a teacher than I have witnessed in most veteran teachers, myself included.

Another impressive strength Brianne possesses is her ability to adapt her lessons from one class section to another in a matter of minutes in order to accommodate the various needs of the students and curriculum. A good teacher is able to self-reflect on a lesson just taught, but a great teacher is able to self-reflect and improve that lesson before the next class walks in the door. She is quick to adapt, open to new ideas, and wonderfully responsive to feedback and change.

Finally, Brianne is also impressively organized. Every single one of her lesson plans were well-thought out, engaging to the students, and creative. Her unit plans are well-aligned to the Utah Core Curriculum, the Granite School District curriculum maps, and the Granite Quarterly Benchmark assessments. She never comes to work unprepared, late, or without a plan and back-up plan. (All good teachers know a good back-up plan is always needed!)

In sum, I highly recommend Brianne Dobson for any position to which she applies. She is an amazing teacher and will only get better with experience and time. She was an absolute joy to work with and I think I learned as much from her as she did from me.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Ward M.Ed