

# **THEODORE SCHOR MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**243 North Randolphville Road**

**Piscataway, New Jersey 08854**

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**Richard A. Hueston, Principal**

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To Whom It May Concern:

Hannah Greenspan completed a sixteen-week student teaching experience at Theodore Schor Middle School in Piscataway, New Jersey. Students at Schor Middle School have an eighty-minute block schedule in Social Studies. As a result, Hannah's schedule consisted of four eighth grade social studies classes, two elective social studies classes, and a before the bell class called College Board College Bound. Class size varied, ranging from the smallest class of seventeen to the largest class of twenty-five. As Hannah's cooperating teacher, I had the pleasure of watching her develop lessons that were highly motivating, student-centered and extremely engaging.

Hannah was responsible for planning lessons that would keep students engaged for a period of eighty minutes. As I observed her each day, it was clear that Hannah exhibited a level of poise and confidence that can only grow out of planning and preparation. Her lessons were well developed and stimulating for middle school students. In one particular lesson, students were divided into six different groups. Students worked collaboratively to examine the pressing issues of the 2008 Presidential Election. These issues included healthcare, education, energy and the War in Iraq. Once the students reached an understanding of their assigned issue, they were responsible for completing a variety of activities including graphic organizers, charts, and speech bubbles. This lesson culminated with a Socratic Seminar on the Presidential Election issues. I was intrigued by the way students were able to transfer their knowledge of the issue into a class discussion. Hannah had a rubric to assess the students on not only their content knowledge, but their ability to articulate the information to the class. After the activity was complete, I had students ask me if "they could do another activity like this the following day." It was clear that Hannah had reached a level of rapport with the students at Schor Middle School.

After working collaboratively with Hannah for sixteen weeks, it is evident that student teaching has been a very promising beginning for Hannah. Her ability to connect with her students and her talent at teaching simple concepts, as well as more advanced topics, are both truly superior. She has excellent written and verbal communication skills, is extremely organized, reliable and computer literate. She accomplishes tasks with great initiative and with a very positive attitude. From planning and preparation to the facilitation of the lesson, all good components of teaching are in place. In my view, Hannah Greenspan is an excellent candidate for a permanent teaching position.

Sincerely,

Janell M Bowe

Theodore Schor Middle School

*A Community Of Learners, Educating With Excellence*

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