

April 2016

To Whom it May Concern,

I strongly recommend Karen Capobianco for an art teaching position. I first met Karen when she provided art instruction during a Hudson Valley Writing Project summer program for SUNY New Paltz Migrant Education students. In the few days of working alongside one another I was impressed with her expertise as an artist and her patience as a teacher.

A short time later Karen and I collaborated on a papermaking project funded by a grant from the Mid-Hudson Teacher Center. Karen demonstrated a thoughtful, responsive and dedicated approach towards implementing our grant. She carefully organized the materials we needed for the project and modified the tools to meet our specific needs. In the midst of the project, Karen collected additional learning resources based on the questions and comments she observed while working with the students. This resulted in students building a stronger connection to our work and extended the learning beyond our collaboration.

Over the past few years, Karen has worked in various instructional capacities at our school, Lenape Elementary in New Paltz, NY. At one point, she implemented our entire art program for grades three through five, differentiating instruction based on grade level, ability and interest. One memorable project for fifth graders was using recycled materials to design and create functional musical instruments. As a culmination and celebration of learning for the year, Karen organized a very successful art show for the school, which included multiple pieces for each of our four hundred fifty students.

Recently, as a guest teacher with my students, I witnessed Karen's impact as an instructor. Her calm and patient approach encouraged students to share their thinking and increased student engagement with activities. With one particularly energetic student who struggled with self-control, Karen patiently guided him towards appropriate choices on a number of occasions.

Karen's expertise, patience and dedication to her own and others' learning make her an ideal candidate for this position. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,

Eric Savelson  
Elementary Teacher  
Lenape Elementary School  
(845) 256-4000 ext. 69627  
[esavelson@newpaltz.k12.ny.us](mailto:esavelson@newpaltz.k12.ny.us)