

4/26/2016

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support for John Sharp. I had the opportunity to work closely with John throughout his student teaching internship during the Spring of the 2015-2016 school year. John first came to Peirce School to complete observation hours. He made an immediate impression on me because of his extensive knowledge of art history, art techniques, and visual art pedagogy. One of John's most impressive traits was his ability to be flexible and adapt. He worked with students during a very busy time at Peirce that resulted in altered schedules due to testing, field trips, and showcase rehearsals. Peirce students and I are very fortunate to have worked with John.

John demonstrated extensive knowledge of visual art pedagogy. The lessons he wrote and taught were thoughtful, relevant, and aligned with visual art content standards. John's understanding of students' ability levels are a direct result of his capability to purposefully gather information related to students' prior knowledge, skills, learning styles, and individual/special needs.

John developed an excellent rapport with students because of his warm, caring, and respectful demeanor. He encouraged respectful interactions between students by creating lessons that utilized collaborative group work. John established a classroom culture that emphasized respect, responsibility, safety, work ethic, and craftsmanship. The classroom culture that he developed and maintained throughout his student teaching internship allowed students to express, develop craft, explore, and create successful works of art.

It is with great confidence that I offer this letter of support to John. He will be a valuable addition to any school, organization, and community. My experience working with John was more of a collaboration between colleagues than a student-teacher/mentor relationship. John's experience as an artist-in-residence coupled with his knack for teaching make him an exceptional talent. Please feel free to contact me via email (rfsoto@cps.edu) or by phone (847-612-6378).

Sincerely,

Raymond F. Soto

Visual Art Teacher/Adjunct Instructor