

January 5, 2016

To whom it may concern,

This is a letter of recommendation for Amber Mahaffy. She was a co-worker at the Tahquamennon Area Schools/Newberry Elementary where she taught the Early Childhood Developmentally Delayed class and as a Resource Room instructor. She was always very friendly and cared deeply for the children that she taught. She demonstrated a good understanding of the needs of each student she worked with and developed good rapport with each of them.

Amber spent a great deal of effort trying to enhance the technology of the classroom and adjust the curriculum to make it more appropriate for her students. She was not afraid to consider new technology with students and try alternative learning methods.

Thank you for your time in considering my opinions.

Sincerely, Lisa Lewicki, M.A., CCC SLP

HOUGHTON LAKE HIGH SCHOOL  
DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION  
4433 WEST HOUGHTON LAKE DRIVE  
HOUGHTON LAKE, MICHIGAN 48629  
989-366-2003

Re: Amber Mahaffy

Good Day:

It is a true pleasure to be writing this letter of reference for Amber. I have worked with Amber for the past two years and have found her to be a wonderful, caring teacher who is always looking for the best in her students. Her mind is in constant motion to figure out strategies and accommodations to assist her students in being successful.

I think one of the greatest things about Amber is her never ending energy. She is always looking for new programs and services to help her students become successful adults. She has a bubbly personality, and a really great sense of humor.

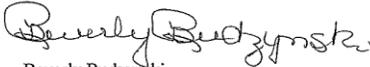
Amber is a true professional in every sense of the word. I respect the manner in which she deals with students, asking them about their responsibility for work, testing, etc. She also is highly knowledgeable in special education law. Amber is also a very creative individual, using various materials to create billboards and displays for her classroom.

Since Amber has joined the Houghton Lake School system, she has been asked to work between the High School and the Alternative Education Program. This has been a difficult job, because of the nature of the two educational entities. It has been a stressful and difficult role to fill. The High School program allows Amber to teach Skillbuilder (Special Education) classes, while in the Alternative Ed setting, she is asked to push in to the classes to assist. Not an easy task for one teacher and numerous classrooms.

Amber Mahaffy would be a wonderful addition to any educational team. She is conscientious and caring. It would be difficult for anyone who to not find her interests and energy contagious. I would truly recommend Amber for any position that requires attention to detail.

Should any information or opinion offered in this letter of recommendation require clarification, please feel free to contact me at 989-366-2003 or 989-329-3146.

Sincerely,



Beverly Budzynski  
Student Services Coordinator  
Houghton Lake High School

# *Saint Joseph School*

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WEST BRANCH, MICHIGAN 48661**

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June 29, 2012

To Whom It May Concern

It is my pleasure to write on behalf of Amber Mahaffy. Amber has worked in our building this past school year as a Title 1 Tutor, employed by West Branch Rose City Schools.

One of the most distinguishing characteristics about Amber is her initiative in taking on new projects. Given the opportunity, Amber will take an idea, run with it, and see it through to fruition. She spearheaded several programs this year, including our Lexia online reading program and the Title 1 Parent/Student Connection Program. Amber is even keeping in contact with students over the summer through take-home reading bags where she journals with some of the students about the books they're reading. Another wonderful aspect about Amber is her deep compassion for students. Amber identified many needs of our students this year in learning, emotional, and socio-economic circumstances. She then took the initiative to locate resources in the community to aid these students. She also used her own resources and finances to help some of these children. Her altruism is truly admirable! Lastly, I enjoyed Amber's optimistic attitude in the face of a challenge. There have been many changes to our Title program and the program itself is very unpredictable from year to year. Amber had an extremely positive attitude all year as we navigated these issues. She was always very helpful in seeking out more information and resources from the public school. She also took numerous webinars, tutorials, and workshops to gain more education and training in her field.

I highly recommend Amber for a position in the realm of education. Please call or email me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

*Katie Nimcheski*

Katie Nimcheski  
Principal of St. Joseph School  
(810) 252-0748  
knimcheski@wbstjoseph.com

Office of Clinical Experiences

December, 2010

Letter of Recommendation: **Amber Mahaffy**

Amber Mahaffy completed the requirements for her special education endorsement in Learning Disabilities during the Fall 2010 term at Roscommon Middle School in Roscommon, MI. Her experience included both direct teaching and academic support to 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders in all subject areas. During this time she also completed a comprehensive assessment project on one student as part of her endorsement requirement. Amber's schedule provided her opportunities to work with students both in her classroom and also in an inclusive setting.

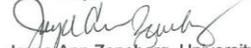
Developing a positive rapport with students is one of Amber's strengths. She is highly sensitive to the needs of students and works hard to maintain a balance between her role as a teacher and accessing appropriate services that extend beyond her teaching role. She creates a learning environment that is safe and positive. She develops classroom management strategies that address the learning and behavior needs of her students. She demonstrates respect for her students and holds them in high regard. As a result, her students are responsive to and engaged in her lessons.

Amber is open to suggestions for the best strategies, best procedures, and best management and organizational ideas to improve student learning. She participated in the entire IEP process during her LD student teaching experience, from determining present levels of performance and determining learning goals, to contributing to the development of the IEP as an active participant. She communicated with parents and kept them informed about student progress.

Ms. Mahaffy takes her responsibility as a teacher seriously. She is open to and accepting of suggestions for improving learning opportunities for her students. Because she is strongly committed to her students, she recognizes the importance of maintaining a clear line of communication with her colleagues to assure that a team effort is in place to enhance learning. Amber also makes every effort to keep an open line of communication with parents.

Amber Mahaffy is a dedicated professional who is aware of her strengths and is committed to life-long learning. She avails herself of opportunities to continue to develop her professional skills. Amber will be an active, committed professional on any staff desiring a teacher who holds the learning needs of students as her highest priority!

Yours truly,



Joyce Ann Zeneberg, University Field Supervisor  
College of Education  
Saginaw Valley State University

Office of Clinical Experiences

April 14, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

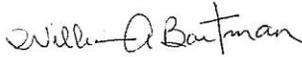
Amber Mahaffy has completed a very successful teaching experience in the fourth grade at Surline Elementary School in West Branch, Michigan. Tammy Lebzelter served as her very supportive host teacher and role model. Amber has a calm, quiet manner in the classroom to which children respond very well. She used a wide variety of activities to accommodate all learning styles. Her classroom was always busy and productive and always showed evidence of careful, thoughtful planning. Amber has a wonderful enthusiastic manner.

There are many very impressive things about Amber. First, her knowledge of subject matter is above reproach. Second, her knowledge of the teaching-learning process and evaluation techniques is excellent. Third, her good rapport with students is evident in her classroom management style which is effective and successful. Finally, and most importantly is her positive personality. She always sees the best side of people and situations and makes everyone around her more productive and happy.

Amber brought much maturity and experience to her classroom teaching. Students looked to her as the teacher and trusted her as she led them in trying new and exciting activities such as electronic field trips using the white board, computer research, and the extensive use of manipulatives in math instruction.

Her unit on "Our Government" illustrates her teaching creativity. It was extremely well organized and highly motivational. It is a fine example of thematic teaching. It was always a pleasure to visit Amber's classroom and enjoy the positive, productive environment.

Amber has earned the very best possible recommendation from SVSU. She will be an excellent addition to any staff she joins.



William A. Bartman  
SVSU Field Placement Coordinator  
3797 Wickes Rd.  
West Branch, MI 48661