



Creekside Middle School

1111 Nilles Road . Fairfield, Ohio 45014
Phone (513) 829-4433

July 13, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

I could not more highly recommend a candidate than Lauren Decker for a position within your school. I worked closely with Lauren for the past four years while she has served in the capacity of Art teacher at Creekside Middle School.

Appropriate educational program

Lauren previously worked with some of our most at-risk students: students learning the English language and new to United States schools. She also worked with a unique demographic of at-risk learners with our special education population, specifically our students on IEPs for emotional disturbance. Her passion for students is undeniable. Unlike some, Lauren immediately contacts parents and involves them in the discussions around their child's individual needs. She works collaboratively in engaging parents as part of the team in supporting each child. Lauren works to highlight individual talents and showcase the incredible qualities of each student of a group.

Lauren is consistent in modeling high performance and expectations while continuing to build relationships with each student, while encouraging and engaging the students with the curriculum and with the school overall. Lauren possesses an unparalleled drive to exceed expectations and expects the same from her students and co-workers.

Meeting the educational needs of students and staff

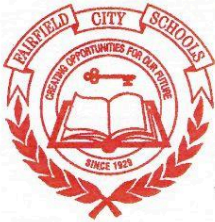
Lauren Decker dedicates herself to students first and foremost. Everything she does centers around students. As a member of many IEP and ESL conferences with parents, Lauren continually brings the conversation back to what was best for kids. In phone calls about students, she strives to iterate, time and time again, what each student needs. If I asked other staff members to list the top qualities of a leader in our district, they would include: dedicated, listener, communicator, student advocate, and strives for excellence. Each of these describes Lauren Decker.

Lauren communicates with students, staff members, parents, and administrators with ease. She works tirelessly to find solutions to satisfy everyone and provides a calm, supportive, and soothing classroom environment for her students.

Lauren's experience, educational philosophy, and personal vision perfectly align with what teaching and leading in education should be. I confidently presume that Lauren Decker will be successful and surpass any requirements or expectations set for her. I welcome a phone call at (513) 592 – 1192 if you have any questions about her fulfilling the role in your program.

Educationally yours,

Kari Franchini
Principal, Fairfield Creekside Middle School



Creekside Middle School

1111 Nilles Road • Fairfield, Ohio 45014
Phone (513) 829-4433 • Fax (513) 829-6480

May 30, 2022

Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Lauren Decker for your Art position. Lauren is a valuable member of our staff; passionate, welcoming, and supportive. She will undoubtedly be an amazing asset to your building, and quite possibly your best hire of the year. I have had the pleasure of supervising Ms. Decker for over 5 years now, and can say with complete confidence that she is one of the best staff members I have ever been a part of hiring. Her impact is tangible.

Ms. Decker is passionate about teaching art. She prepares engaging lessons for her students, assesses their progression on skills, analyzes data for trends and gaps, and works to further the students in her classroom. Each lesson she teaches is well thought out, planned for and executed.

Ms. Decker is welcoming. Her classroom environment is one of the most amazing and friendly settings I have ever had the privilege of entering. Aptly called their 'sanctuary' Ms. Decker and her student work together to establish the rules, guidelines and procedures. Together, they create a classroom environment unlike many others. Students are on task and engaged, self-motivated and student centered. Ms. Decker moves from table to table checking in on her students, offering positive and specific feedback, and encouraging them to go further in their art. It is hard to put into words the tangible peace and calm that is her classroom. Everyone has a job, they are all part of the same team, and they work together to create an environment where everyone is safe and welcomed. Ms. Decker's classroom is a breath of fresh air.

Ms. Decker is a team player. She has incorporated writing into her art room to support our building wide learning goals. Not only does Ms. Decker take on new initiatives, she implements them with fidelity and a positive attitude. Ms. Decker shared the data gathered from the writing samples with her TBT, who played an invaluable role in supporting our students writing needs across content areas. She is one of the first to help a colleague in need. Her supportive and kind nature make her an asset to any department.

In summary, Ms. Decker will be an asset to your staff and make a positive impact on your students. Her strengths are numerous. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any further questions. I cannot recommend her highly enough.

Mrs. Delaney

Assistant Principal

Creekside Middle School

Pattie Byron

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Cincinnati, OH 45202
513.543.2055
pattiebyron@mac.com

April 29, 2015

To Whom it may Concern,

It is with much pleasure that I recommend Lauren Decker for a position in Art Education. Ms. Decker worked for me at Pop Revolution Community Studio. The community art studio taught a variety of art classes to all ages, hosted art birthday parties, and held adult art-making nights. Lauren was involved in all of our programming.

As an art instructor she was required to develop and submit original lesson plans. Lauren's classes were well thought out and developed. She showed competency in drawing, painting, 3D design, puppetry and book-making to name a few. She executed her plans successfully and would reflect and improve her process when needed. A plan is always a great start, however, being able to adjust to a class or student's needs is where a teacher's talent lies. Lauren showed maturity in being able to adjust and be flexible when the situation called for it.

Lauren's classroom management skills also stood out among her peers. This was apparent with the young children as well as teen and adult students. Her curious, upbeat approach to the creative process kept students of all ages engaged. She made appropriate adjustments to her tone and delivery for the different ages and skills she worked with. Lauren maintained an organized and orderly classroom and supply room which provided her students with an optimal environment for creativity.

What I appreciated most about Ms. Decker is her enthusiasm. She truly enjoys and thrives in education - something rare and special. I would genuinely enjoy speaking with you more about Lauren Decker. Please do not hesitate to reach out via phone or email.

Sincerely,

Pattie Byron



More Than Me
P.O. Box 438
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

April 17, 2015

Reference Letter for Lauren Decker

To Whom It May Concern:

As Director of Programs at More Than Me Academy in Monrovia, Liberia, I oversaw Lauren Decker as our Creative Development Fellow for the 2013-2014 school year. This role comprised of working two separate but full time jobs as both a classroom teacher and after school program director. Seeing Lauren's passion and work ethic firsthand throughout the year, I am writing to endorse and support her candidacy.

Lauren's classroom was composed of girls ages 7-17, all of whom had never been to a western-style school and all read below a kindergarten level. It was a challenge, but Lauren's goal-oriented planning and encouraging compassion served our students. Lauren established an empowering, inspiring classroom. I witnessed her both challenge and nurture our girls and I soon watched them excel. Lauren taught her students their very first phonics lessons, passionately inspiring them to always push themselves to achieve their best. Lauren volunteered to provide weekend lessons for struggling students on her own time, demonstrating her dedication to student-centered teaching and the growth of her students. This dedication achieved results: her students finished the school year reading two grade levels above where they began.

On top of Lauren's invaluable teaching contributions, she also served as the director for our after school program. Using her creative problem solving skills, she designed the after school program from the ground up. From recruiting volunteers, writing the curriculum, and overseeing all daily operations, Lauren created and organized a vibrant after school community for our students. Her planning and leadership resulted in a robust after-school program, featuring volunteer-led classes in the arts, foreign language, computers, reproductive health, leadership, literature, history, and more. Lauren's encouragement of the arts led her to co-produce a rap single performed by a group of our most talented students. Lauren was able to take her own appreciation for the arts and adapt to our students' interests. The voices of our young women played all over the radio in Liberia and it was such an incredible lesson to our girls that no dream is too big if you are willing to put in the work.

In addition to her responsibilities as a teacher and after school program director, Lauren also successfully took charge of several major projects. She began the school year by co-coordinating our academy's opening ceremony, successfully creating an unforgettable program attended by the President of Liberia. Furthermore, Lauren co-chaired the establishment of our school library. She assisted our principal in sorting and organizing books, as well as designing the interior space. Lauren's involvement in all aspects of our school truly reflected her passion for our student's education and her commitment to the school community. She was my go-to person whenever we needed a project or task done and always completed those projects, big or small, with a smile on her face.

Lauren was universally recognized for her trademark enthusiasm. She was hardworking, genuinely invested in the wellbeing of our students, and devoted to our mission. As a teacher she is compassionate and dedicated to those she is serving, believing in the potential of her students and pushing them to achieve their best. She will undoubtedly carry this same passion wherever she goes; her talents, drive, and professionalism will be an asset and agent for change in any school. She is ambitious, empathetic towards her students, and strives for the advancement of her community. I fully endorse Lauren and I support her candidacy. She will undoubtedly make a difference in your institution and the lives of all the students she touches.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any additional questions. I am happy to help in any way. You can reach me at michelles@morethanme.org or 610-389-9647.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Spada". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Michelle" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Spada".

Michelle Spada

Director of Programs