



*Douglas Finch, Ed.D.
Director of Student Services*

February 15, 2018

Dear Members of the Sorenson Legacy Award Committee:

Lisa Garner has been nominated for recognition as an outstanding Elementary Arts Integration Teacher in the Beverly Taylor Sorenson Legacy Arts Learning Program. I enthusiastically support this nomination and include my recommendation because I view her as a dedicated and talented educator who supports the development of a meaningfully and relevant integration of Art at Edgemont Elementary.

Over the past 2 years, Edgemont Elementary School has transitioned to an integrated model of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). Lisa was assigned with a small team of talented teachers to launch this initiative. As a group they participated in professional development and met often to collaboratively change the way they unpacked and integrated curriculum, organized and taught lessons, and evaluated and assessed student performance. She also developed and employed effective classroom management and organization strategies to explicitly teach 21st Century skills. At the heart of all of this work, Lisa utilizes the Arts to develop teamwork, communication, creativity, critical thinking, and studio art design skills.

Something that makes Lisa particularly outstanding is her willingness to learn and be reflective. Despite the stress of changing her teaching practices, she models resilience as she remains always pleasant, hopeful, and constructive in her approach. Lisa has been willing to take on leadership roles in this work and facilitate the collaboration of all the school's stakeholders. Many of her colleagues are lifted by her optimism and professional example. Most importantly, children and families are greatly benefited from her devoted work to high quality teaching using an exemplary model of Arts integration.

I strongly recommend Lisa for recognition as an exemplary Elementary Arts Integration Teacher. Feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the details noted in this recommendation.

Sincerely,



Douglas Finch, Ed.D.