



June 8, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter regarding Mr. Jason Valleau to give a professional reference based on my interactions with him and his classes at Calgary Academy. I was Mr. Valleau's principal for this past year and during this time he has taken active roles inside and outside of the classroom to contribute greatly to our community.

Calgary Academy is a private school that caters to a clientele that has struggled to be successful in other schools because of learning differences. Our teachers undergo intensive professional development for two weeks each summer and weekly during the school year to enable them to be highly trained and equipped to address the varied needs of the students that attend our school. Many of these students have ADHD, reading, writing and math difficulties, and issues with executive functioning deficits. At Calgary Academy we focus on the student first and address their learning needs by differentiating our teaching using many different modalities in the classroom and by structuring our classes in a predictable manner for the students.

Mr. Valleau joined us this year covering a maternity leave and we consider ourselves very fortunate to have had this time with him. I have had the privilege of observing Mr. Valleau's classroom from time to time and to see him in action leading full-school celebrations. He took over the full music and leadership programs at Calgary Academy and taught music all the way from kindergarten to our high school Rock Band. He scaffolded classes in these areas to meet the needs of students from multiple entry points, which can be very challenging. He cares deeply about his students and forms great relationships with them and their parents; he also quickly became well-loved by our staff who greatly appreciated working directly and indirectly with him. He consistently works to build his capacity by taking advantage of learning opportunities and engaging in personal professional learning on his own time. He utilizes the resources around him to better the experience for his students and is an advocate for their needs. Outside of her classroom, Mr. Valleau has contributed to the community and to student life leading several school-wide initiatives and supporting all of our growth by connecting our school with local indigenous artists and musicians at several points in the year. He also created a radio station for students to express their musical tastes and opinions on world events, and collaborated with the drama department's musical productions by creating a pit orchestra to add to the production while supporting his students to learn what it is like to perform in a semi-professional scenario. His leadership program focused on event management, vendor and sales management, creating real-world experiences for his students.

Mr. Valleau is a dedicated professional who continually improves his craft as a teacher through professional learning and development and building his capacity as a teacher. He is a great value-add to any program and will be deeply missed at Calgary Academy. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Carlson", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Timothy Carlson
Principal
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