

January 30, 2022

RE: Professional reference for Jason Valleau

To Whom It May Concern:

My affiliation with Mr. Valleau was as a preservice teacher in my field II course in the Bachelor of Education program in the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary. This letter serves as an addendum to my field advisor narrative assessment which provides more specifics regarding meeting the competencies from the Teaching Quality Standard.

I hope to paint a picture of a naturally gifted, highly engaged pre-service teacher that energized and inspired his students, skillfully supported, and collaborated with his partner teacher and wowed his field advisor with his creativity, work ethic and musicality.

Jason met the challenges and constraints of providing a music program to culturally and academically diverse junior high students from grades six through nine with apparent ease especially noteworthy in this early practicum. COVID-19 protocol made playing instruments an impossibility leaving Jason to devise alternative methods to get and sustain student interest while building musical skill. Through call and response rhythmic clapping, surveying, and curating students' musical interests, using technology to highlight a range of techniques and musical genres as well as promoting active listening, Jason had every student in the palm of his hand. Students were enveloped in an atmosphere of joy and creativity and responded with attention and musical competence producing accurate notation and unique compositions. Jason's sophisticated disciplinary knowledge, passion, organization, and care reinforced the notion that musicians were in rehearsal.

After three weeks of field experience, Mr. Valleau had to change gears having to present his lessons online. He met this challenge by researching and delivering a variety of digital technologies to introduce his students to creative compositions and performance options. Jason's partner teacher was delighted with the "infusion of energy" brought to the class during these trying circumstances.

Jason is a natural teacher with maturity, integrity, passion, pedagogical and musical skill. From the perspective of my experience as a teacher, administrator and more recently as a field advisor he ranks in the top 5% and has extraordinary potential to be a teacher of excellence.

Sincerely,



Shirley Pepper, MEd
Sessional Instructor, Werklund School of Education
University of Calgary shirley.pepper2@ucalgary.ca