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Fairfax County Public Schools

8115 Gatehouse Road

Falls Church, VA 22042

Dear Dr. W. C. Peabody, Director of Instruction, in Fairfax County Schools:

Upon visiting Fairfax County Schools, I was immediately drawn to the diverse atmosphere that encompasses the community. While I have had the opportunity to learn and contribute to surrounding counties and their school districts, I have not had the chance to work in a school system that aligns so closely with my beliefs. I know that Fairfax County’s mission is to inspire and empower students to meet high academic standards, lead healthy, ethical lives, and be responsible and innovative global citizens. Coming from a university that prides ourselves on citizen leadership and diversity, this is why I am interested in becoming the tenth grade English teacher at Fairfax High School.

The beliefs of Fairfax County Schools are in part what attracts me to this position. A well-rounded education and community and family involvement are key in enabling quality academic programs for children and to ensure individual learning needs. Teachers are responsible for implementing curriculum that prepares students for life after grade school, while administration is building a support system within the community to provide enriching experiences. I love how Fairfax County focuses on academic progress to ensure that all students, regardless of race, poverty, language, or disability, will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary for college or employment.

During my student teaching experience, I was able to assist the lead teacher with lesson planning, classroom activities, and routines. I implemented lessons that involved whole group discussion, but also allowed for individual assignments to promote independence in my students. After a few weeks, the responsibilities of the lead teacher became mine, and I continued to perform these activities. Together, my cooperating teacher and I worked to achieve instructional objectives and goals in teaching writing. While teaching, I allowed students to have some low-stakes writing opportunities to improve their writing skills for bigger assignments. I believe to teach writing, teachers must allow students opportunities to expand on their skill set before grading them on what they can do. Also, incorporating technology and multi-modal opportunities for writing, can engage students more effectively than traditional writing styles. Some examples of the assignments can be viewed by clicking this link. Watching my students learn and succeed was the most rewarding part of my experience, especially after creating a positive, safe relationship with each student.

I believe that every student is capable of learning regardless of his or her background or disability and there is room for flexibility in lessons. Effective teachers should build relationships with their students and value them for who they are because you are not only a teacher; you are a learner in this environment as well. Teachers are mentors and life-long influences on students. Through my own classroom experiences and student teaching, I am sure that I would be a positive addition to the Fairfax High School family through my incorporation of technology, arts, and my desire for each student to excel not only in the classroom, but in their personal lives as well. Thank you for considering me for this position.

Thank you,

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