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It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for **Diana Wanek**.

I have worked with Diana at Harritt Elementary School for the past four years. She is Harritt's Media/Technology Teacher and Literature Expert.

Whenever I get the chance, I show up to Media class early to pick up my class so that I can watch Diana at work. This is for two reasons: to be **entertained** and to learn something **cool** and new.

The Cool and New

Diana teaches to the future. She is constantly looking for new techniques and software to introduce to her students. She reads, searches, and networks to find ways to prepare kids for the world in which they will live and hopefully **thrive**. I have witnessed my fourth graders **creating** and recording amazing music with Diana Wanek. These same nine and ten year olds have produced presentations with video and sound in media class that make me wish I was a fourth grader again. Although I use a computer every day, these kids are as tech **savvy** as I am. I can't wait to see what they will be doing and what I will learn the next time I peek in.

The Entertainer

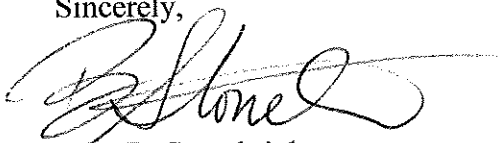
Diana Wanek is a **passionate** teacher. When she reads a book aloud to her class, one would think that auditions for a Broadway show are taking place in our media center. I can't help but listen in to see which character she has become. Diana relates well to all age groups of children – a great actor. She has a silly, soft side for our younger kids and the witty, **humorous**, no-nonsense side that our fourth and fifth graders need. Diana makes standards-based chocolate waffles for an entire week every school year, not because she has to, but because it is what kids love.

Since I have known Diana, she has been one of the hardest working people I know. She reads nearly every book in the library so that she can recommend them to children during her book talks. Diana's **commitment** to her job brings her to work early every morning to research and prepare great lessons for her students. She is a wonderful **resource** for teachers: creating Harritt's Media website, providing staff access to numerous online resources like World Book and Video Streaming, and knowing the standards and her job inside and out.

There is so much more that I can say but I will stop here to give one last thought. I have only given you my teacher perspective so far so let me speak as a parent. I am devastated to know that my two girls will not have Mrs. Wanek as one of their teachers next year. They love her. They **rave** about her. My hope is that Diana Wanek will be somewhere nearby doing what she is meant to do – teach children.

Please call or email me if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,



Brett D. Stonebrink