

WESTBOROUGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fine Arts Department

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To Whom it May Concern,

It is my pleasure to have the opportunity to write a letter of recommendation for Anne Slotnick who has served as the Drama Director at Westborough High School for the past two years. During this time, she has kept the drama program a vibrant and important part of our school community and has brought many fresh ideas to the forefront to enhance the program and contribute to student learning in the arts.

Ms. Slotnick began her career in the footsteps of a successful director who had left the program in the middle of the summer to pursue a stage career. At the time, students were very concerned about the future of the program and how they could continue in his absence. Ms. Slotnick immediately went to work to meet with these students during the summer to alleviate their fears and concerns. She also actively recruited new students in the lower grades to join the program on stage and behind the stage to ensure the continuity of the theatre program at Westborough High School. She also included and encourages students to be a major part of the artistic decision making process giving the students a great sense of pride and ownership in the finished product. I also saw an increased involvement with the parents of the children offering to assist behind the scenes with set construction, costuming, tickets, and concessions. The support structure she has put in place is far better than the one she inherited.

Anne has excellent classroom control. Her theatre arts classes surpass the allotted enrollment and she is seen working with large classes of 30+ students frequently. There are fewer spaces in theatre arts classes than the current demand for these courses. This is in large part to the excellent working relationship and respect she has developed with her students. Her stage and classrooms are safe environments for students where their ideas and opinions are respected and shared.

During her brief time at WHS she has made an enormous impact on our students. She has diligently worked to create new course offerings (Shakespeare and Stage), and reshaped the curriculum in Theatrical Production, and the Theatre Arts I and II courses to have students experiencing and learning about theatre through many interactive projects with measurable outcomes. I see an emphasis on the development of 21st Century Skills in her classroom on a daily basis.

The after school theatre program at Westborough High School is healthy and vibrant with Ms. Slotnick presenting two shows (play and a musical), in addition to advising the student directed One Act Plays, and the Improvisation Troupe. These productions are of high quality and serve as an extension of our daytime theatre curriculum for students. The shows selected demonstrate an understanding of the students and what they need from their experience in a theatre program in a public high school.

Currently, her job at Westborough High School is part-time and I understand her need to seek out full time employment in another district. I can assure you, that with Ms. Slotnick you are

gaining a valuable staff member who works hard to be part of a team of arts teachers. All of us here at Westborough High School respect her contributions to our meetings and the dedication she shows to her students.

It is without hesitation that I can recommend Anne Slotnick for employment as a Theatre Arts teacher in your district.

Sincerely,



David N. Jost, Coordinator of Fine Arts
Westborough Public Schools