

January 6, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

I am the administrative assistant at Daycroft School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. I have the privilege of being a colleague of Blaise Badynee, our school's Spanish teacher. For the past five years I have observed as our kindergarten through eighth grade students learned to speak Spanish. Throughout my day, I overhear students enthusiastically learning to speak the language through Blaise's use of various verbal games and songs. Her classroom is across from my office, and I can verify the participation and excitement the students experience when they attend her class.


In addition to what I hear coming from within the classroom, I also overhear our students speaking the language around the school outside of Spanish class. I often notice students speaking in Spanish to me, other staff members, and each other; phrases like "hola," "gracias," and "¿Cómo estás?" are spoken in the hallways by even our youngest students. During one of our school assemblies, one class sang a song Blaise taught them in Spanish, which they had been practicing secretly to surprise her with a performance. Our students clearly enjoy her class.

Not only is Blaise valued by our students, she is a good staff team member. She is always flexible and helpful with unexpected situations, like modifying her class schedule at the last minute to help supervise students when teachers are ill and we may not have a substitute teacher. Along with teaching Spanish, Blaise has also developed an after-school tap program at Daycroft that has grown to include two separate levels of classes. These tap students perform in schoolwide events throughout the year. Blaise also teaches several weeks of day camps each summer, which include Spanish camps along with dance intensives and service learning camps. In particular, her Spanish camp geared towards younger students regularly fills up and has a wait list.

Using her background in linguistics, Blaise created a linguistics curriculum at Daycroft, and has taught linguistics classes here to fifth through eighth grade. Our middle school students had the opportunity to go on field trips to her alma mater, Central Michigan University, to sit in on a linguistics class every year. Each time, our students impressed her, our school, and the professors and students at CMU with their college-level knowledge of the subject and their ability to participate in a university class.

Blaise is a good ambassador for Daycroft School. She regularly presents sessions at the annual Michigan World Language Association conference in Lansing, and she has also presented at the Independent School Association of the Central States conference in Detroit in 2018. Any school who hires Blaise can look forward to having a dedicated and hard-working teacher who truly loves the language she teaches and enjoys inspiring a love of learning in each of her students.

Sincerely,



Laura Hogan  
Administrative Assistant  
Daycroft School