



FAIRFAX COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department of Special Services  
Office of Special Education  
Dunn Loring Center  
2334 Gallows Road  
Dunn Loring, VA 22027  
703-204-3960

November 6, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Eric Triche. I had the privilege of working with Eric during summer 2008 and was grateful that he was part of our administrative team at Flint Hill Elementary. Eric was our administrative intern, and I was one of the pyramid resource specialists comprising the administrative team.

The program at Flint Hill was designed to meet the needs of approximately 200 special education students for whom Individualized Education Plan (IEP) teams had decided that Extended School Year (ESY) services were necessary. The students included those with autism, mental retardation, emotional disabilities, and learning disabilities. The students represented the entire range of special education needs and presented a wide range of special education challenges. Eric contributed to the envisioning, development, and implementation of the programs that met the needs of these diverse students.

Because this model for providing ESY services had not been previously implemented, it was up to the administrative team at Flint Hill to envision the model and to provide a framework for services. Eric read IEPs, located critical information about students, and worked collaboratively with four other administrators to talk about student needs, to decide how to group students, and how to assign teachers to those groups. It was clear in these conversations that Eric's focus was on students and what they needed in order to learn. It was also clear that he was collaborative, a flexible thinker, and good-natured.

As the ESY model developed and teachers began to set up classrooms and develop their programs, and as the weeks progressed, Eric was responsive to the many needs presented. He talked about students with teachers, found supplies and materials that were appropriate and needed, and helped organize arrival and dismissal procedures. He was willing to do tasks that needed to be done. For example, he made the PowerPoint presentations that were necessary to convey critical information to the staff, checked out library books, and called parents when their students were sick. Likewise, he worked with the administrative staff on transportation and safety and security issues. Eric was an efficient and hard-working "doer" when tasks needed to be done.

Eric demonstrated good judgment regarding individual students as well as personnel issues. In regard to the former, he understood that students with disabilities often

require an individualized approach to relationships and discipline, and Eric was willing to learn about the kids and their particular needs. He used good judgment in responding to the incidents that required administrative intervention. In regard to personnel issues, Eric was respectful of the privacy of others while being careful to follow the district's policy and procedures.

Most importantly, Eric took the summer administrative opportunity to learn and grow. He sought opportunities to observe administrators interact with students and adults. He engaged in dialogue on best practice and shared from his own school experiences. He asked for input and advice from me and others and learned much about the special education students and special education instruction.

It is not an exaggeration to say that Eric was essential to the success of the summer ESY program at Flint Hill Elementary School. I am grateful for his willingness to collaborate and to work hard, for his responsiveness to students and adults, and for his good-natured, positive approach to the experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha Chamberlin".

Martha Chamberlin  
Elementary Resource Specialist