

December 12, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to provide this letter of recommendation for Lena Garcia's application as an art teacher in your district. It has been my great pleasure to have her as a student in my pre-practicum seminar and observe her as a student teacher this past fall at Hampshire Regional High School.

Lena has been incredibly successful at building trusting relationships with colleagues and students. She seamlessly became a part of the teaching faculty and has been an outstanding team member with her two supervising practitioners. Her instructional design and the exemplars she creates for students set the tone for the high expectations that she has for them. She is reliable and a strong member of any educational community she is in.

Lena is especially gifted in developing her students' artistic and creative abilities through her thoughtfully planned and well-designed lessons. I have witnessed her lesson planning throughout this past fall semester, and her choices have always been exceptionally responsive to the needs of her students. For instance, Lena carefully considered the level of skills of her current middle school students while holding them to high expectations and making learning through the arts a joyful experience. Her lesson plans assured success for all students.

Every lesson she creates is culturally responsive and imbued with anti-racist pedagogy. Equity and inclusion are essential to her instructional practice. She thoroughly outlines the steps throughout the lessons and checks with each student several times during class. Her assessments and rubrics allow for a variety of student responses and encourage critical thinking and analysis. Her carefully designed essential questions are always open-ended and thought-provoking.

With lots of teaching experience already, Lena's energy and passion will bring depth and breadth to your art program. I am confident that she will be an exceptional representative of the teaching profession in your district and a compelling advocate for your visual art program.

With utmost enthusiasm, I highly recommend Lena Garcia for your serious consideration as an art teacher in your district. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can further assist with her candidacy.

Most sincerely,



Julie Sawyer, Ed.D.
Program Supervisor

December 11,2024

Dear Hiring Committee,

I am pleased to highly recommend Lena for a teaching position. Lena is much beloved and respected as an art teacher who has been offering classes at the Chesterfield Community Center since 2022. She is very highly regarded as a teacher who can provide instructions in the use of watercolors, oil, acrylic, and drawing and other media. She is effectively able to relate to people of all ages. Her approach to teaching is positive, gentle and supportive. As a result, students feel encouraged to try new skills. Her classes are always full and people are actively seeking to sign up for her upcoming workshops. The feedback we get is always laudatory and she is much demand. I have found Lena to be warm, goal directed, patient, and someone who leaves people feeling valued and successful in their work. In short, she is an extraordinary and invaluable part of our community.

Respectfully,

Janice L. Gibeau

Director, Chesterfield Council on Aging (retired)



Hampshire Regional High School

Lauren E. Hotz
Principal

Alexander W. Seid
Assistant Principal

Kara R. Sheridan
Assistant Principal



19 Stage Rd.
Westhampton, MA 01027



(413) 527-7680
Mon-Fri 7am-3:30pm



www.hrhs.net

April 29, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this recommendation in support of Mrs. Lena Garcia who has been a practicum student in my art classroom this semester at Hampshire Regional High School in Westhampton Massachusetts.

Ms. Garcia possesses a sound foundation in pedagogy. Lessons conducted by Lena are challenging and engaging for students. A broad repertoire of materials and processes are offered for student exploration. Lesson planning offers historical and socio/cultural reference for student inquiry. As well as being an outstanding educator Mrs. Garcia is an accomplished painter with knowledge and expertise that she conveys to all students. During her practicum Lena has taught a variety of courses at Hampshire Regional including Art 1, Graphic Design, Art 7, Art 8, Ceramics 2 and Wheelworking. Her inquisitive and thoughtful countenance augments how she presents each lesson. Her thoughtful reflections lead to lesson revisions when appropriate to continuously engage students with their artistic production.

Mrs. Garcia consistently demonstrates a calm, poised demeanor coupled with a caring and responsive attitude towards her students. Lena has the ability to involve all students in a given assignment. She tailors lessons to the needs of individual students as well as the class as a whole. During assignments Mrs. Garcia always interacts with each student assuring that all are given encouragement and assistance.

Lena Garcia is an educator with compassion for students coupled with high expectations for each individual. It has been such a privilege for me to work and learn from her this semester. I recommend her to you without reservation and hold her in the highest regard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Warren Smith".

Warren Smith

Art Teacher

Hampshire Regional High School

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Westhampton, MA 01027

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