



Monday, June 11, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

Mr. Grekin has asked me to send you a letter of reference on his behalf. It is my pleasure to do so.

Since 1994, Mr. Grekin has worked at Jewish People's and Peretz Schools as a computer teacher (K-6) and technology specialist for the school. Over the years, he has also given professional development workshops for support staff, administrators and teachers, worked with teachers to integrate technology in the classroom and conducted extra curricular classes in computer skills, multimedia and typing (1-6). He has also provided substitution in all grades and has been the unofficial photographer for the school. In fact, many of his photos have been used in local newspapers promoting JPPS.

For many years, students in grades 1 to 6 had the opportunity to learn computer skills during a one-hour class taught in the computer lab by Mr. Grekin and/or myself. In the past 2 years, we have moved away from this model of teaching computer skills in a lab and have adopted a more integrated approach whereby teachers use technology in the classroom using wireless laptops (grades 4-6). Computer skills are no longer officially taught. Instead, technology is used in a seamless and more natural manner as the need arises - technology becomes one more tool in a repertoire of many tools.

As a result, Mr. Grekin's role and schedule have changed dramatically. While he is still responsible for the maintenance of hardware, setting up equipment as required for special events and presentations, providing technical support to staff, helping teachers integrate technology and become independent technology users in their own classrooms, he no longer has the opportunity to teach children directly - something he has always had a passion for.

I have worked with Mr. Grekin since 1998, initially as a computer teacher and for the last 2 years as vice principal during which time I had the opportunity to observe Mr. Grekin on a daily basis.

I have found Mr. Grekin to be task oriented; flexible, patient and easy going even when we make last minute requests to accompany our students on trips or substitute when a teacher calls in sick; generous with his time whether it is to bring work home to help out a teacher or

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student who has a deadline to meet or to attend many of our evening functions to take photos or operate the technology.

Mr. Grekin's open-door policy has allowed teachers – those who are technologically savvy and *especially* those who are not – to approach him for help with multimedia projects, class web sites, Internet research, blogging, on-line report cards as well as learn how to navigate our FirstClass communications system. His ability to multi-task allows him to respond to teachers, administrators, parents and students in a timely fashion in an extremely busy milieu.

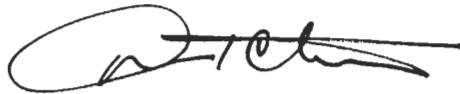
Teachers appreciate Mr. Grekin's help and feel that they could not have produced such amazingly innovative projects without his assistance, patience, creativity and encouragement.

JPPS students have always been at the forefront in terms of technology skills and literacy and Mr. Grekin has played a crucial role in preparing them.

I recommend Mr. Grekin in the position of technology specialist/ computer teacher and I am sure that you will be more than satisfied with his performance within your school.

Please feel free to contact me if you require additional information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debra Michael', with a large, stylized initial 'D' and a horizontal line extending across the end of the signature.

Debra Michael

Vice Principal
Jewish People and Peretz Schools