



ACKERMAN ACADEMY

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PRINCIPAL
NOEL HYGELUND

To whom it may concern,

I had the pleasure of working with Ellen Whyte for a music program we presented at Ackerman Academy for the 2014-15 school year. I first meet Ellen in August when we were meeting to start the year and she was extremely focused long before her first day in the classroom. She had countless ideas on ways to link her vast musical knowledge with content specific curriculum required for my US History A class in the winter. I had zero reservations in allowing her into my classroom since I could see her organization skills and energy was going to go over well with our students.

Ellen planned almost an entire term of curriculum linking musical history with other key historical events from slavery through the Progressive Era. She was always prepared for class with ample copies and student instructions. I really appreciated how receptive she was to suggestion, and her willingness to make any adjustment to fit her content into the units I had already planned.

When class started she was ready to go and had many musical instruments on display. She would give great historical background on each one before wowing all of us with her talents in playing them. The days she came into my classroom were always energetic, and students had great success in demonstrating the skills she taught them. The students performance in March was truly spectacular and they all reached a level of confidence none of us at the school had ever seen before. I feel very fortunate to have had the chance to work with Ellen and highly recommend her to anyone looking to put on a great music program.

Sincerely,

Patrick T Irvin
Social Studies /Health Teacher