

Sample: Principal's TLC Nomination Letter

From the first time I met _____, she impressed me with her enthusiasm and her genuine desire to determine the best way to meet each every child's unique learning needs in her classroom. When we met for the first time, _____ told me "I know that every student who comes through the door is meant to be in this classroom, and we will learn together." She consistently displays the burning desire to successfully inspire each of her students to learn, and that always makes a visit to her classroom energizing.

I believe that _____'s great enthusiasm to teach all students has been shaped by her varied teaching experiences. After graduating from _____ she taught for 5 years in the _____ ISD. The school was newly opened, and she was the school's first kindergarten teacher. Since it was a new campus, she had the opportunity to meet each day with teachers from grades 1 through 6 – taking the initiative to develop a vertical alignment team. The school was also an inclusion school, and _____ had the chance to work with children with a variety of special needs, including students with feeding tubes, blindness, emotional disturbances, speech challenges, and cerebral palsy. These experiences sharpened her ability to recognize and serve students based on unique individualistic needs.

In another district, _____ taught for 8 years at a Title 1 school. In one of her years on that campus, she taught in a multicultural classroom, where the students proved to be particularly quick to learn, despite the fact that there were 8 different primary languages spoken there (English, Hebrew, Spanish, Mongolian, Bengali, German, Korean, and Vietnamese). This, again, is a testament to _____'s ability and determination to adjust her teaching style to meet the specific learning needs in her classroom. With an autism unit on the campus, _____ volunteered to have an autistic student placed in her classroom. That experience was such a success that she eventually had as many as 5 students with varying levels on the autism spectrum in her classroom at one time. _____ saw first-hand how her students intuitively perceived the learning differences of the other students and would help one another. The school received an award for its successful inclusion of autistic students in the classroom due in part to _____'s efforts. _____ also helped the school attain a grant to purchase equipment to address fine motor development, an area where many of her students struggled.

Since moving to the AISD 4 years ago, _____ has taught at both the 1st and 2nd grade levels on my campus. She has also chosen to help serve in many ways at the school and in the district, such as serving on the curriculum council, PTO representative, discipline committee, text book committee, facilitating Balanced Literacy cadres, and GT leader for the grade level. She has also provided modeling in the classroom for teachers on our campus and other elementary schools in AISD. _____'s great enthusiasm in the classroom inspires teachers toward excellence, themselves.

Each of the experiences mentioned in this essay have helped shape _____ into a teacher with a contagious passion to help ALL students in her classroom. As is evidenced in this nomination letter, _____ exemplifies what it means to be an OUTSTANDING teacher, exuding passion, initiative, creativity, and determination while inspiring others toward excellence in education. Thank you for considering her as the recipient of the Outstanding Elementary Teacher of the Year Award.