



Shanghai Community International School

上海长宁国际学校

October 27, 2013

Joel Sutton is a knowledgeable teacher, creative designer, and diligent employee. As a colleague and Vice Principal at Shanghai Community International School, I have had the privilege of working with Joel for the last three years and can attest to his strengths within our school setting. Joel's positions have been varied and impressive because he has taught a variety of courses including Desktop Publishing, Yearbook, Percussion (Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced), and Graphic Design, while at the same time putting together a monthly edition of the *SCIS Dragon News*, the campus full-color, glossy news magazine. Joel's abilities to incorporate technology into his lessons have also encouraged students to develop their own skills and abilities.

As a teacher, Joel spends many hours researching and developing interesting lessons to share with his students. Since his position asks him to tailor the lessons to the specific set of students facing him at that moment, he works hard to create an organized and effective classroom, regardless of the subject. When I visit his classroom, he is active, interacting with students, answering questions, and guiding inquiry based activities as students develop their skills through the use of technology or music. Joel's multiple talents and abilities means that he is capable of teaching a wide variety of subjects, but his flexibility and willingness to tackle new projects means that he often acts as a pinch hitter to help where possible. The students enjoy the opportunity to learn and develop creative projects that showcase the skills they learn in his classroom.

As a creative designer, the school magazines, photos, and yearbook can speak to his skill as a graphic artist. He puts in countless numbers of hours dedicated to arrangement, photoshopping, and organizing the material. He can often be found on the weekends, working and reworking the spreads to meet the school requirements for the various publications. His skills in photography, photoshop, and other platforms allow him the opportunity to teach students how to use technology creatively and effectively, but also are a benefit for the school publications. It is always a pleasure to see each publication because we all know how much time Joel has spent on perfecting each edition and working with the publisher to have it ready on time, even when colleagues do not contribute their own material in a timely manner.

Joel works diligently and effectively with his colleagues. As part of the digital media department as well as the music department, he willingly works with both sets of colleagues to showcase student success. Where others may be overwhelmed by the variety of requirements and types of challenges he faces each day, Joel continues to develop the process so that it can become a smooth and simple method that will allow ownership for faculty, parents, students, and administrators to contribute to the various publications. The creative output for which Joel is responsible is indeed an impressive amount of pages, when viewed on a yearly basis. The community appreciates Joel's efforts because he provides a fresh and focused review of their actions in the past month.

During his time at SCIS, Joel has participated in many different areas and subjects. His actions and involvement demonstrate his willingness to be part of the school community. We appreciate his strengths as a teacher, creative guide, and organized developer.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jessamine Koenig'.

Jessamine Koenig
SCIS High School Vice Principal / IB DP Coordinator
jkoenig@scis-his.org

www.scischina.org