



Shanghai Community International School

上海長寧國際學校

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To whom it may concern,

Danielle (Dani) DiPietro has been a faculty member at the Shanghai Community International School from the 2011-12 school year and will continue at SCIS for the 2013-14 school year. SCIS is an international school with close to 700 students in grades 6-12, from about 40 different countries and is located in a central area of Shanghai.

Dani's teaching assignment at SCIS has included grade 6 with her primary focus on instructing grade 8 science. Dani is a very talented and engaging science instructor. Her courses are centered around a hands-on laboratory based approach that students find engaging and appropriately challenging. She sends regular updates to the entire administrative team with what is happening in her class and invites the administrative group to drop in to see the amazing activities that are going on. Highlights, for both students and visitors, include owl pellet dissections, heart dissections and rat dissections. Her hands-on laboratory based approach provides her grade 8 students with a solid base from which they can move into and be successful in a high school science course. She also provides an appropriately challenging and rigorous body of scientific knowledge to her students that compliment the carefully designed laboratory activities. Dani masterfully differentiates for differing student needs. In particular, she provides differentiated instruction for her ESOL students that allow those individuals to realize academic success in a demanding subject.

Dani has contributed to the overall life of the school outside of her classroom. Upon her arrival at SCIS she realized that there was a lack of alignment between the middle school and high school science program. In typical fashion, she tackled the work with the other members of the science department to improve on what was already in place. The result is a well-articulated science curriculum that allows students to move smoothly from middle school science classes, to science classes in grades 9 and 10 to IB diploma science courses in grades 11 and 12.

Dani has also been involved in the wide variety of co-curriculum activities on offer at SCIS. She has very capably run the house system in for the entire middle school. As a part of the house system, she organized and coordinated two very successful fund raising drives. One of the fund raising activities was in response to one of our faculty members being diagnosed with cancer. As the coach of the high school robotics team she led her crew to a 3rd place finish in the design component of a well known robotics competition.

Dani DiPietro is an excellent science teacher and I recommend her highly. She has shown a high degree of professionalism in her tenure at SCIS and would be an asset to a school. Please contact me directly if I can provide additional information regarding her candidacy.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. D. Smith'.

Jeff Smith
High School Vice-Principal
IB Diploma Coordinator, SCIS
(Secondary Principal, IST, Tanzania as of July 2013)

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