



THE MONTGOMERY ACADEMY

Archibald Douglas
Headmaster
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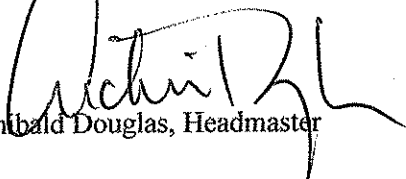
To Whom It May Concern:

It is my distinct honor – and regret – to offer this letter of recommendation for Emily Vickery, one of the most creative, dedicated, and visionary educators I have come across in 24 years in the field. In August 2004, Emily joined the faculty of our school – independent, non-sectarian, and rigorously intentional in its preparation of students for the nation’s most competitive colleges and universities – as an Upper School (Grades 9-12) Instructor in Technology. Since then, she has had two major responsibilities: teaching technology and supporting teachers in professional development. Through the execution of both, she has exhibited a deep commitment to her students and colleagues as well as a forward-looking perspective.

As a teacher of technology, Emily has been responsible for teaching students to use multimedia tools effectively (podcasts; video; and Web 2.0 applications), and her students’ work has been showcased at national and international conferences. Invariably, students who had been reluctant to engage technology’s potential have come alive in her classes, motivated by the combination of openness, collaboration, and curious exploration that she nurtures so carefully.

As a professional development facilitator for the teaching faculty, Emily has been even more effective (frankly, this has been her greatest value to our school, because students will only go as far as their teachers are prepared to take them). Serving her colleagues as a valuable resource as needed, she has pioneered their use of Web 2.0 tools such as wikis, social bookmarks, RSS feed, and Google applications. As many of them have updated their syllabi, assignments and such on their individual pages for the school’s website, her demonstrations of the use of the iWeb application have been, for many, if not transformative, then certainly, at least, exciting. Demonstrating that her expertise extends beyond technology and that she understands well the myriad threads of technique and pedagogy that must make up the great teacher’s ‘bag of tricks,’ she has also assisted teachers in the development of new curricula and instructional strategies. To me, as an experienced observer of teachers, it is clear that Emily has pushed our teachers forward, and that she has forever changed their attitude toward both technology and ‘the new.’

It pains me to acknowledge that Emily’s success has created such positive change that – given the current economic climate – we must try to get along without her. ‘Budget cuts’ should not end such a promising and productive relationship, but there you are; fiscal pragmatism – especially when applied to short-term goals - is not always pretty, nor is it sometimes educationally relevant. Personally, I hate it because Emily has played a critical role in pushing our school to embrace new practices in teaching and learning. Stated simply, she has helped push our school into the 21st century. I know that she will be a tremendous asset in any educational setting, and I wish her great success.


Archibald Douglas, Headmaster