

To Whom It May Concern:

I highly recommend Lauren Barry as a candidate for employment. As the former School Improvement Leader at Des Moines East High School, I had the privilege to work closely with Ms. Barry as her Science Department Administrator from 2017-2019. Ms. Barry taught Earth Science and ELL Earth Science. East High School is part of the Des Moines Public Schools and is located on the eastside of Des Moines, Iowa. East proudly serves a diverse student population of over 2,400 students and is designated as a majority minority school.

Ms. Barry came to us as a first year teacher, but her skill set and content knowledge was impressive and she stood out as something very special. She was quick to be defined as a contributing leader to the Science Department and the building as a whole. She tackled new National Science Standards and the implementation of a Standards Referenced Grading Policy with ease and grace. She is gifted in her use of technology and often stepped up to help others with their electronic gradebooks and various programs they could use for instruction. One of her defining moments in her just her first year of teaching, was when she fully supported a long-term sub by preparing lessons and materials for the class. plus she also took over the grading. Infact, she often took her planning time to teach the other class, so student needs were met with fidelity. She did this all without being asked. It would have been pressure for any veteran teacher, let alone a new teacher, but she took it in stride and used that challenging experience to become a stronger teacher.

Ms. Barry is a bright, talented teacher who takes time to plan, reach students from diverse backgrounds, and train students to be independent and collaborative learners. She builds genuine relationships with students and parents. She establishes rules and procedures that promote learning, safety, and acceptance in her classroom. Ms. Barry monitors her students through observation and formative assessments. She uses data to drive her instruction and differentiate her lessons. She also provides individual attention and effective feedback both verbally and written. She is a strong PLC member and is creative in her development of engagement strategies she uses in her classroom..

You want Lauren Barry on your staff and you want her teaching your students. She is a gifted and driven young teacher who has strong content knowledge, instructional strategies, creativity, and the natural ability to make genuine relationships with students. I only wish I could have taken her with me. Please feel free to contact me at kelli.rixner@indianola.k12.ia.us or (515)229-8443 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kelli Rixner
Vice- Principal
Indianola High School

