



WOODLANDS ACADEMY
OF THE SACRED HEART

— EST. 1858 —

March 12, 2013

Re: Recommendation for **Merle Branner**

Merle came to Woodlands Academy in the summer of 2011 to join our Technology Department. Her position was a three-pronged one and, as such, she was accountable to three different supervisors. She worked on our Web Site under our Marketing Director, she worked for our Business Manager, and she worked under me in the academic realm.

Merle is a dedicated and hardworking teacher. She is eager, avid, and so very passionate about the world of technology and what it can do to benefit students in general, and especially those students who have learning issues. She helped me understand the importance of teaching young people the 21st century skills they are going to need to be successful in university, in the business world, and in life. Merle has taught a Computer Technology class to all of our freshman students, as well as independent-technology classes to individual students. Her classes are creative, and she is always modifying her classes to better challenge her students and to respond to their growing interests. She models for the students the importance of ethical and creative use of technology.

Her greatest success, however, has come with her work with our faculty. She is kind and patient, and has been helpful to them in understanding what kinds of technology use would be helpful to them in the classroom setting. She has worked with large and small groups of adults, and has encouraged our faculty members to go out to different schools so that they understand what is being done in other settings. Even our most fearful and reticent faculty member has made great strides under Merle's tutelage. Merle also helps us to understand the machinations of our data base systems.

Because of the nature of this position, Merle has been pulled in many different directions, which make it difficult for her to focus in on one particular area. Merle is such a creative teacher. She is always learning, attending conferences and webinars to improve her own knowledge.

Sincerely yours,

Madonna Lee Edmunds
Principal