Kim Ogden
PVHS
48 Penquis Drive
Milo, ME 04463

To: Ms. Powell
Re: Letter of Appreciation for Student Teaching

Ms. Powell,

It has been such an honor to work with you earlier this school year (Fall 2019). Even though you were teaching history, and I teach math, I truly enjoyed our morning before school conversations discussing the metrics and philosophies of teaching and mentoring students. You were always willing to share and listen. Your positive growth mindset is evident in how you approach struggling students outside the classroom. You did not just encourage, you would help every student reason their way through what are typically tough situations. You connections with these students far-exceeded anything I have ever seen in pre-service or first year teachers. Your ability to connect, establish and maintain these relationships is remarkable. To me, this is the most important thing a teacher, mentor, or coach can be. I hope you make time everyday to reflect over each class. Take notes on what went well, what could be better, and what did not work. Also note other things: was a child present in the room, but not mentally present? Was there an event that might impact multiple students? Remember, we can only teach students that are available to learn (as in their home life has not gone crazy). Even with our Growth Mindsets, Maslow's most basic needs must be met. Build those relationships. Make them feel safe, make your students feel welcome, make it clear it is better to try and fail than to never try at all.

You will be a great teacher. On the day you feel like quitting (you might have one or two!) remind yourself why you chose teaching, take a breath, talk to a neighboring teacher, fix your thought process and get back to teaching! You might never know which life you changed that day because you did not give up. It is not all rainbows, some days it does rain, but it is always worth it.

I miss you every day and I am incredibly grateful for our time together!

Kim Ogden

Mathematics

Penquis Valley High School