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May 15, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to write a letter of reference for Andrea Poeschl. Ms. Poeschl has been a mathematics tutor for our son for approximately 1.5 years. During this time I have observed the following:

Ms. Poeschl is very knowledgeable about mathematics. One of the indicators of a successful teacher is having a strong foundation and understanding of the content. Ms. Poeschl has a thorough knowledge and understanding of mathematics.

Another strength of Ms. Poeschl is that she possesses a variety of instructional strategies. She immediately tuned into how our son learns and adapted the lessons accordingly.

Also, Ms. Poeschl is very organized. She is well planned for each lesson and does extra preparations to meet his needs. However, if we have new information regarding his assignments, she is very flexible and modifies the plans easily.

In addition, Ms. Poeschl has high expectations for students. Homework was a necessity, yet the amount always reasonable. At all times I felt that the pacing was appropriate and the content pushed him the right amount each week. She understands the need for rigor, yet the importance of balance. Ms. Poeschl is a master at modifying and adjusting lessons. She demonstrates care and kindness at all times. She understands motivation and how important self-esteem is to student achievement. In summary, there is no doubt that Ms. Poeschl rescued and saved our son in the area of mathematics. While he had excellent math teachers and curriculum, he needed a bit more and she has done a great job with him in the area of math. He has gone from disliking math to most times enjoying math. The proof is in the results – he completes the homework (most of the time) and he passed the State of Minnesota Basic Skills Test in grade eight the first time he took the test last year!

While I have only observed Ms. Poeschl as she has worked with my son, because of my educational background and experiences, I believe that I am qualified to evaluate her work as a teacher. Ms. Poeschl is an excellent teacher!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Janet Pladson".

Dr. Janet Pladson  
Assistant Superintendent