



# VISUAL ARTS

February 26, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Jeff Konigsberg is one of the three or four most innovative and skilled visual arts educators I've encountered in my 18 years teaching and leading in public education. I recommend him without reservation to teach visual arts at any grade level.

As a K-12 Visual Arts Administrator in the Cambridge Public Schools in 2016-17, I worked extensively with Jeff as his primary evaluator. I observed Jeff teach on multiple occasions, worked with him to plan curricula and visual arts programming, and saw him interact with his peers in staff meetings and professional development sessions. Jeff was impressive both as a teacher and a leader.

His curricula demonstrated both deep content knowledge and an ability to connect with students of all backgrounds, ages, abilities and interest levels. He designed his school's entire visual arts curriculum (junior kindergarten through fifth grade), and filled it with authentic and engaging projects that hit the bull's eye where students' cultural background, personal interests, and professional expectations in the visual arts field intersected. Every time I walked into the classroom I saw the entire class deeply engaged in their work, and this was often true with classes that other teachers struggled with.

Furthermore, Jeff demonstrated great dedication to his students' growth and social-emotional well being. He made a serious effort to get to know every student, and did everything he could to differentiate instruction to meet their widely varying needs. In particular Jeff showed himself to be a master at maximizing student choice (using the Teaching for Artistic Behaviors model) while still laying a strong foundation for students to progress in the visual arts.

Jeff was also a leader within Cambridge visual arts educators community. He effectively mentored student teachers, and never shied away from standing up for the welfare of students, colleagues, and the visual arts in general.

Finally it should be noted that Jeff is simply a charming person to work with. He is supportive of his colleagues, respectful of differences, and has a sharp sense of humor. He would be a great addition to any academic or professional community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about Jeff Konigsberg or my work with him in the Cambridge Public Schools.

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