



April 12, 2024

Letter of Recommendation: RE: Aaron Stephenson

To Whom It May Concern:

Aaron Stephenson joined the Worcester Academy World Language faculty in 2006, and has led this Department since as its Chair, he has also introduced and implemented programming to support Worcester Academy's initiatives to design curriculum for Urban Engagement and to establish sustainable Academic Partnerships with many of Worcester's anchor institutions. Aaron has demonstrated his capacity as a high impact educator, as a change agent and as a strategic visionary.

I have known Aaron since 2006 and have had the pleasure of working with him while in my role as the Director of Worcester Academy's Center for Learning, while as a member of the Academic/Executive Leadership group during my tenure as Worcester Academy's Head of Upper School. It is clear that Aaron is eminently competent and well-qualified to pursue a competitive Upper School faculty position and/or a leadership role; one that requires demonstrated departmental collaboration, visionary innovative teaching and learning, and evocative professional development. Aaron possesses the expertise and the strength of character to significantly contribute to a community of learners through the challenges of change associated with the various aspects impacting today's student experience.

The moment that Aaron arrived at Worcester Academy his enthusiasm and passion for his craft was infectious. He has always been considered the consummate professional, a high impact teacher, this is evident in his curriculum design and in the success of his advisory programming, as well. Aaron partners with his students in their learning and in their challenges. Aaron is committed to differentiating his lessons, because of this commitment, Aaron has consistently been recognized for his creativity in course design, activities and assessments as he continually meets the needs and interests of his students. Aaron has been recognized for his excellence in teaching and his commitment to support every student, inside and outside of the classroom.

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Aaron has demonstrated his connection to kids both in the Middle school classrooms, as well as, those in the Upper level classrooms. Aaron extended his classroom beyond the walls, creating experiences to include travel abroad. Specifically, Aaron has created a place-based AP Spanish curriculum and developed travel courses to several countries including Mexico, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, China, and France.

Aaron has continued to extend his curriculum to include cultural community connections. A few examples that demonstrate Aaron's integration of community culture into his classroom teaching are "the Poems for a Cause" and "the Worcester Latino Project". Aaron is a highly experienced teacher with demonstrated pedagogy who is committed to curriculum design through project-based learning and Understanding by Design.

Aaron's multiple roles at Worcester Academy have culminated in his rich perspective; to support the school's core values, mission, and innovative teaching and learning initiative. Aaron continues to lead by example, is dynamic, engaging, and mindful of multiple learning styles; he embraces the opportunity for diversity and ensures that he will support student-centered learning.

Aaron is a natural networker and communicator, embracing every opportunity to develop authentic relationships with both his students and colleagues. He is warm and caring and holds himself to high standards of accountability and performance.

Every student on our campus knows "Mr. Stephenson" even those who have little interaction with him; he is well respected and brings out the best in his faculty and students.

Please feel free to contact me should you have questions and it is with my highest recommendation that I support Aaron's candidacy. Thank you.

Best,

Patricia N. Peterleitner

Head of Upper School ~ Emeritus, Worcester Academy

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