

**Corrine DeRosa**, Principal • **Seth Adams**, Assistant Principal

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my honor and pleasure to recommend my colleague, Pamela Wolf, for a teaching position. I have worked with her at Issaquah Middle School for three years in the same language arts/social studies department and, one year, on the same grade level. Pam has taken on two long-term substitute positions and this year was specifically hired as a full-time-equivalent to teach our sixth-grade honor students. She brings both subject-matter knowledge and great enthusiasm to our school's students and fellow teachers.

When Pam taught 8<sup>th</sup> grade last year, we met weekly to collaborate on updating lessons. I am always delighted by her ability to "meld" with established teachers at all grade levels; she diplomatically brings fresh perspectives and new ideas to their pet projects. With her strong qualifications in English, she is my personal "go-to" person for questions or clarifications in writing and grammar. While taking on a new grade level this year, Pam has been instrumental in helping the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade language arts teachers plan units and lessons for our new text books.

Aside from ably mastering curricula in a collaborative manner, Pam is a team player in our school's extra-curricular teacher roles. For instance, she eagerly takes on extra grade-level or department jobs, such as coordinating Panther Passage, our school's culminating project that requires all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to present their middle school achievements to a community panel. Pam also helped plan our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Ceremony by participating in the selection of student speakers. During the past three years, she has assumed extra responsibilities that have supported our really needy students. Last year, she accepted the position of advisor to Club 7, an after school tutorial for struggling 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This year she is again assisting students after school by supervising the Humanities Homework Club. Finally, Pam both developed and then taught the curriculum for a special 7<sup>th</sup> grade after-school writing program designed to prepare low-income students for state testing.

Of course, Pam regularly attends and participates in all required teacher meetings and team meetings. She also cheerfully chaperones extra curricular school functions. Pam does not shirk parental communications and keeps scheduled appoints with parents and Guidance Teams. Finally, Pam is graciously available for impromptu parent meetings. She addresses any parent or student concerns by focusing on the individual needs of each student. She has reviewed her students' cumulative records and when necessary, sought and exchanged information with other teachers and school counselors to solve problems.

In the classroom, Pam uses a variety of strategies to engage all students, including cooperative learning to teach teamwork and Socratic questioning to encourage higher-order thinking skills. Her lessons purposefully and appropriately incorporate reading, writing, research, critical thinking, and even public speaking.

Finally, Pam is a very caring and compassionate teacher who always goes "the extra mile" for her students. She has acted as a mentor, tutor, and advocate for many of her students, assisting them at lunch time and after school as the need arises. I wholeheartedly recommend Pamela Wolf for a teaching position. Your school and your students will be the better for having her.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Ann Galler  
Issaquah Middle School  
[gallerb@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:gallerb@issaquah.wednet.edu)  
425-837-6840