



# DURHAM UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*"Improving Achievement for Every Student"*

From the Desktop of Randall T. Thorne

March 8, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on the behalf of Laurie Marion York who assisted me in my Summer School Computer Class for two years, 1999 and 2000, as a High School volunteer classroom aide. Although primarily an enrichment program for elementary students, the class was also designed to supplement and support Durham Unified's Technology benchmarks and standards. There were two periods a day, Monday through Friday, each of which were two hours in duration. Laurie assisted me for both of my periods during her first year and for one period during her second year as she was attending a college prep course in the morning.

I first met Laurie during the 1998-1999 school year when she was a High School volunteer aide for D.E.S.'s Visual and Performing Arts Program (V.A.P.A.). I was very pleased to learn that she would be assisting me during the summer. Since the number of students enrolled in my classes was nearly double what I had planned my curriculum for, I had to utilize two classrooms in order to provide each student with a computer.

I noticed right away that Laurie had a very positive demeanor and approached tasks eagerly and completed them expeditiously and competently. She also had an excellent rapport with students. Laurie quickly took charge and monitored one of the classrooms; assisting and encouraging students to complete writing and research assignments by helping them locate information on the Internet or off CD Roms, and importing graphics to documents. Her classroom management and motivational techniques were far beyond the level of someone of her maturity, knowing when to be empathetic and when sternness was required and the students responded well to her.

I am happy to learn that Laurie is soon finishing her Multiple Subject Credential and will be applying for a full-time teaching position. I feel honored to be able to give my highest recommendation to Laurie Marion York. She will prove to be an asset in her endeavor for excellence.

Sincerely,

Randall T. Thorne  
Third Grade Teacher  
Durham Elementary School

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