



Dr. Angela Glass
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January 30, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I find myself writing this letter of recommendation for Lori Gardner to receive the Educator of the Year Award for St. Louis Public Schools. Over the past eight years at Mann Elementary, Mrs. Gardner has played an integral role in ensuring her Kindergarteners are ready for First Grade. According to the STAR Reading test, 76% of her students are reading at or above grade level and 56% of her students are already reading on 1st grade level or above. This is a result of her effective instruction, relationship building, and undeniable compassion for educating all children.

In the past 4 years that I have worked with Mrs. Gardner, she has proven to be an exceptional Kindergarten teacher. It is clear by her actions that she understands Kindergarten is a pivotal year in a child's academic development and how crucial it is to set the tone for how students view school and learning. Mrs. Gardner makes all her students feel comfortable in their learning environment and helps them to learn the way that suits their individual needs. Her clear, consistent routines and procedures and her proactive behavior techniques are key for maintaining a happy and positive environment, which boosts learning for all her students.

She is dedicated and works diligently at preparing in depth lessons for her students. She understands the importance of exposing her students to a variety of topics that is challenging, highly interesting, and socially motivating. Mrs. Gardner's expectation is that all students can achieve their goals in her classroom. She embraces all opportunities for professional development and seeks out feedback to increase student learning.

Mrs. Gardner's classroom's applied learning approach integrates science within all content areas daily. This year, Mrs. Gardner extended her teaching of environmental issues past just her students by initiating and leading the charge of our school creating a school garden through Gateway Greening. Now students from Pre-K to 5th grade have the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of life sciences, learn to be stewards of the environment, and understand the power of growing food. She is the sponsor of our student light house recycle team and our school green team which currently composts and recycles our food waste daily.

I highly recommend Lori Gardner to receive the Educator of the Year Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Angela Glass".

Dr. Angela Glass

Make it Happen! No Exceptions! No Excuses!