To Whom It May Concern:

Catherine Fisher completed her student teaching at Central Academy in an Early Primary classroom, which, consists of students between the ages of 4-7. Central Academy is a small, democratic, urban school within the Middletown City School District with 394 students and 69% on free/reduced lunches in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade.

At Central Academy, children experience whole group, small group and individualized instruction daily in multi-age, fully inclusive classrooms. Catie’s responsibilities included attending staff and team planning meetings, creating lesson plans based on the new common core curriculum, teaching small and whole group lessons, imbedding student research, completing student assessments, participating in intervention/IEP meetings and being involved in our student-led conferences.

Catie displays many characteristics of a quality teacher. Her dedication to student teaching demonstrates her potential to be a successful classroom teacher. Her strength as a leader will be an asset as a teacher. When Catherine started in August, she quickly stepped in and participated in all of our daily routines and activities. After a short time, she was leading the morning meetings, our phonics time and was gathering resources for many of our lessons. After teaching a unit on nonfiction, the students became very interested in Penguins. Catie spent her own time collecting more books from the library to help us answer each of the student’s questions about Penguins. In addition, she facilitated a small group of students in their independent research. Catie has done an excellent job of incorporating technology into the school and classrooms. She recently helped our class create an I-movie to present their findings about Penguins at our all-school “Celebration of Learning”.

Being well prepared is another strength of Catie’s. When asked to take over planning lessons, Catie was always very organized and eager to teach. Her lessons were often multi-leveled and differentiated. In addition, they were directly related to the skills we were trying to teach. Catherine is able to generate lesson plans that integrated her own ideas while still keeping the lesson focused on the common core. Additionally, she was always willing to get materials ready for future lessons. In many cases, she had already initiated getting various supplies arranged without even being asked.

Catie possesses a positive and enthusiastic personality. She has a great rapport with the students and easily makes each student feel safe and respected. She is often seen encouraging each student to work to his or her fullest potential. She has high expectations of the students and focuses on helping the students to be successful in the classroom. Catie became familiar with and learned about the student’s needs through: discussion with her cooperating teacher, participation in parent meetings, and conducting some assessments and observations of the students to help meet their individual educational needs As well, she has been able to maintain a positive classroom climate. She always conducts herself in a professional manner. She attended all of our grade level and staff meetings both during the day and afterschool. She was a constructive working member of our team and often contributed ideas to help make our lessons and activities better.

Catherine Fisher is a confident, knowledgeable, and has the skills of an experienced teacher. I believe that she will continue to grow and become even more effective as a teacher with further opportunities. Please feel free to contact me at 513.227.4383 or email me at muhl@middletowncityschools.com if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Maria Uhl