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To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Cadence Mitchell, whom I have known for the past two years. As an NHS alumnus, Cadence provided me with useful insights about our school environment when she volunteered her time with our spring production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, working with students on characterization and staging. The subsequent semesters, working together as a team, have been both fruitful and rewarding, resulting in successful productions of *High School Musical* and *A Year With Frog and Toad*. I consider Cadence a valued colleague and friend.

As a working singer/actor, graduate of University of California at Cal Poly, and a seasoned educator, Cadence brings training and experience which outshines most new high school teachers. She has patience and a steadiness which contribute to her skillful improvisation in the face of the many daily challenges and changes which are an inevitable part of teaching. Her comprehensive dedication to teaching is easily recognizable by students and peers alike; her interest goes beyond curriculum and into building trust and enthusiasm in the classroom. Cadence has several years' teaching experience with local students, working on productions and in workshops, and these years have made Cadence even better equipped to teach both Freshman English, carving the path to higher order critical thinking, and Theatre, helping students to find greater creativity and self-confidence as they move beyond high school and into community and professional productions. Shifting dexterously between these disparate levels of learning, Cadence has impressed both of her mentor teachers by maintaining her poise, humor and curiosity.

Since joining the community at Nipomo High as an educator several years ago, Cadence has assisted in multiple productions with script writing, choreography, and singing tutorials. Included among her skills is a great ability with a wide variety of styles and musical abilities, while assistant-directing such large-scale shows as our yearly cabaret, *The Best of Song and Dance* and *Stars of Tomorrow*. Not only did Cadence take on significant responsibilities within these productions, with her two productions this year she has worked vigorously to create intricate, student-centered rehearsal schedules and choreography. Cadence has performed admirably regardless of any obstacle, be it hesitant or uncommitted students, the lack of a rehearsal space or the added challenge of directing at Nipomo High while performing in or directing another show in the community. Largely because of her clear and abundant joy in these

projects, our musicals have grown in popularity with audiences, and the group of students who audition for her continues to expand, despite the long hours which theatre students spend at work learning pages and pages of dialogue, songs, and dances.

Cadence's success would not surprise anyone who has worked with her as closely as I have. Her care for students is always apparent in our daily conversations about the state of the production, mood of the cast, and logistics of the show. Cadence is constantly striving to improve the skills of her students, coming into each rehearsal with personal anecdotes or a new revelation she had overnight. She invites students to share her standards for excellence, generating intrinsic motivation for success even as she achieves excellence in performance. Her willingness to listen and absorb others' contributions is a hallmark of her directing style. I recall numerous times during the directing of *High School Musical* when Cadence and I would stand next to one another onstage talking cast members through particular acting moments, and through our dialogue we would discover more abundant and deeper levels to the performances students would give. Her seemingly boundless flexibility makes her both approachable for students and amenable to colleagues.

Because her commitment to her students is palpable in both her English and Theatre classes, Cadence has earned her reputation with students and staff as a hardworking and effective educator. Her dynamic and courteous personality, coupled with her obvious expertise and continuing curiosity, has made her very popular with students and with staff. Without a doubt, Cadence will be a potent addition for whichever school is fortunate to hire her. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can further clarify my remarks.

Sincerely,



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