

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter of recommendation for Austin Freels after observing him as a long term substitute in both Biology and Earth Space Science classes at Tippecanoe Valley High School. He took over the class after the teacher left on maternity leave. I had most of the students in the Earth Space Science classes the previous year as part of the Biology program so I was familiar with the group of students and their needs and challenges.

I noticed from the first day that Austin took over the classes a marked change in both the atmosphere and the environment of the classes. Where before through the shared lab room closed doors I heard lots of noise of students who were talking loudly and getting off task now I enjoyed the sounds of silence as I taught my classes next door. His classroom control was very good. You can tell by the way things are laid out as you walk into the room that the kids have what they need to start the day even before they sit down. He has daily instructions on the board; he has extra supplies/copies of assignments available for students on a side counter where they can easily get to them. I have been impressed as I walk through the class several times a week at how on task the students are and how he has gotten some of the harder to reach kids on board with what he does every day in class. He has shown overall excellent classroom management in a situation where that was not the established routine.

He has managed the pace of the class and followed the curriculum laid out by school and the basic outline of the units. The outline consists of the genetics theme for the last nine weeks and ecology for the last nine weeks. He has used the materials left for him and has approached me for more/different challenging assignments to supplement what he has from the teacher he is substituting for. He asks inquisitive questions and shows a passion for the subject matter and bringing it to students in a form they are ready for and will have success with. He grades assignments and tests in a timely fashion, maintaining a good record that allows students to know where they are in his class at any given time. He also meets with a group of freshman in our SRT program and monitors their progress in all their classes. He suggests ways to improve their standing in particular classes and gives them feedback based on their grades in all of their classes once a week.

I would recommend Austin without hesitation for employment at this time. He has shown himself to be an inquisitive teacher who is always in the process of challenging himself to be better. He is a part of our Freshman Academy team and has developed excellent relationships with the other teachers that make up that team. He goes out of his way to be helpful and make sure the work he does is of high quality and on time. He is in his classroom early preparing for the day and has shown a dedication to make his students better learners and people as well. If we had a position at Tippecanoe Valley for next year I would recommend him with the highest regards.

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions. My email is [jonhutton@hotmail.com](mailto:jonhutton@hotmail.com) or my cell phone is 574-344-8881.

Sincerely,

Jon Hutton

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