

## **"A New Beginning"**

**Harvey C. Sabold  
Elementary School**

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To Whom It May Concern,

It is a true pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Denise Glennon. I have known Denise since 1994 when she became a first grade teacher at Sabold School. From her first assignment in grade one to the fully inclusive fourth grade class she taught for two years, Denise has set herself apart from her colleagues. She is a wonderful teacher with many talents but most importantly, she keeps her students as the top priority.

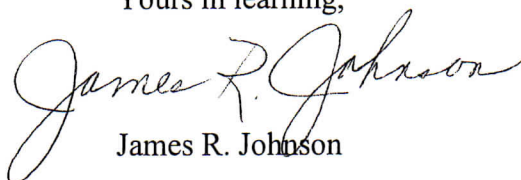
In the classroom, Denise maintained a positive climate by holding weekly class meetings where students raised and solved classroom problems. The meetings helped foster a strong sense of community in the classroom where children and adults helped each other. The focus on the social goals allowed Denise to focus on academic tasks. Reading was one area in which Denise excelled. She developed the concept of reading circles that were called "Book Clubs." Students were presented with five or six books of different reading levels centered around a theme. Students read the books and rated them on interest and readability. Next, Denise guided students through structured follow up activities. Response journals, written tests and teacher observation were used to evaluate individual student performances. Other experiences she organized for her students included: an original Spring show about weather; thematic units on Africa, animals, and dinosaurs; and the use of centers for language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

Denise showed a keen interest in technology and participated in a district-sponsored computer pilot program. She wrote a grant and received four computers and a color printer. One of the computer programs allowed students to publish fiction books they wrote.

Ms. Glennon participated in a yearlong district committee that analyzed existing science curriculum according to national science standards. She wrote a monthly newsletter to parents informing them of classroom academic and social activities. She also incorporated her understanding of Spanish into many of her lessons.

We were very lucky at Sabold to have a teacher of Denise's extraordinary caliber. Her life experiences, her understanding of pedagogy and her love of children combine to create an educator of remarkable talent. She will be an outstanding addition to any faculty. If I can offer further assistance, please contact me at your convenience.

Yours in learning,

  
James R. Johnson