

February 28, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I have gotten to know Betsy Damon in a professional capacity over this school year. She functioned as the Library Coordinator at Pittsfield Elementary School, teaching classes for pre-k through 6th grade, managing circulation, and providing upkeep to the current collection while bringing in new materials to update and revitalize student interest in the library. Mrs. Damon spent countless hours working to make our library the best it could be and designed lessons to engage the students through personal connections. It was not uncommon to see her collaborating with teachers or seeking information and direction on how best to provide for different classes from their classroom teachers or other unified arts specialists.

Three projects in particular that she worked with the 6th grade on included: "My Special Place" posters, respect bumper stickers, and Newbery Award projects. The first project was prompted by a work of literature that spurred students to make connections and use persuasion through word and visuals advocating that their special place was "The Special Place." Bumper stickers about respect gave students a creative outlet and served as a formative assessment of their understanding of what respect is and why it is important. On the Newbery Award project, Mrs. Damon provided multiple methods of sharing information that students used to choose their top 3 choices for their project. She then worked with myself and our special education case manager to assign the book best suited to student interest and ability. The end result of the project allowed for student choice in mode of presentation with clear expectations of what needed to be included in the project along with a "tangent" section that was guided by individual student interest.

While new to the position and the district, Mrs. Damon jumped right in with the students' needs and well-being always being at the forefront of her thoughts. Mrs. Damon performed the regular student supervision duties such as recess duty without issue and was quick to step in and cover other duties or classes as needed for the good of the school. She instituted and recruited 5th and 6th grade students to serve as a before school "Library Squad" making sure to receive feedback from their classroom teachers on how being part of the squad would help each student.

I am glad to have been able to get to know this young lady and wish her the best in her journey. I can be contacted by phone at 435-5216 or email at dpatsos@pittsfieldnhschools.org if any further assistance is needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Patsos", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David Patsos