



Department of Reading and Language Arts

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January 29, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a pleasure to recommend Tharan Suvarna as a candidate for a teaching position in your school district. Tharan has the potential to be a wonderful teacher and I highly encourage you to offer him the opportunity to showcase his talents as an educator.

As an undergraduate, Tharan was a student in two of my classes at Oakland University: *The Teaching of Reading* and *Reading Assessments and Assessment Based Instruction*. Throughout the duration of both of those courses, it was evident that Tharan is a passionate learner who is willing to invest the time and energy necessary to be a highly successful student and educational leader. Tharan was an active contributor to dialogue in our class. He posed thoughtful questions and readily shared his thinking in small and whole group conversations. The insights he offered regarding the topics we were studying, were appreciated by his peers.

In addition to seeing Tharan as an OU education student in a class setting, I was able to watch him work directly with children. Oakland University's Teacher Education program provides site-based instruction, which before the pandemic, enabled preservice teachers such as Tharan to take their methods and assessments classes in a school setting. Throughout a portion of our daily class time, the preservice teachers are able to apply what they are learning, directly to the instruction of young children. Before we moved to online learning, I was able to watch Tharan showcase his knowledge of best practice reading instruction. In a metropolitan elementary school setting, I supported Tharan as he planned and taught one-one-one or small group reading lessons. I was able to observe him facilitating interactive read alouds, as well as shared and guided reading lessons, designed to help these beginning readers grow their decoding, fluency and comprehension skills. Throughout his interactions with children, it was very evident that Tharan loves to teach. He was thoughtful about the books he chose to read to children, and he asked questions which led to deeper understanding of the text. It was fun to see children highly engaged with the instruction, and growing their literacy skills, as they interacted with Tharan.

Due to the pandemic, our assessment class was taught remotely. Through this class, Tharan learned to administer a variety of reading assessments, including Early Literacy Assessments to determine phonological and phonemic understandings; Running Records; the Spelling



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Inventory; and the High Frequency Word Assessment. Working online with a 5th grader, Tharan administered some of these assessments. He learned to analyze the data and plan appropriate follow-up lessons to meet the reading needs of this learner. Even when connecting through Google Meet, Tharan was able to establish a positive relationship with the child he tutored and plan lessons designed to help her grow as a reader.

Tharan is passionate about history, social studies and current events. He often tries to incorporate cross-content learning by integrating his knowledge and love of these subjects into his literacy teaching. While working with the 5th grader online in the fall, for example, he used books focused on the Presidential election as well as Veteran's Day.

Please give serious consideration to hiring Tharan Survana. I am confident that the passion he has for teaching will result in wonderful learning for your district's children.

Feel free to contact me for additional information.

Best,

Phyllis Ness