
CONNIE MANNA

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**Lead Art Coordinator
Norwalk Housing
Authority**

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To Whom it May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Thomas Turner in consideration for a teaching position in your school. Thomas has been an invaluable member of my Art Enrichment staff for two years now. They worked with students virtually and came in person to run the art department, solo, under my direction at a time when we were not fully staffed and it was still unsafe for me to remain on premises, due to the pandemic.

Thomas is a dedicated teacher as well as an empathetic advocate for the children in their care. Thomas is a self-starter who takes initiative to help where it is needed and creates art curriculum that is fun and exciting. Their lesson plans are quite comprehensive; They typically offer a visual presentation, which encompasses Art History and starts a lively conversation on what the students saw, including cultural, social and economic significance before launching into a multi-step studio lesson. I am quite happy to say that I have often suggested to Thomas that their lesson is more suited for high school students than for k-5 graders. This is not a negative criticism, rather I read their lessons in amazement at the amount of detail and care that goes into each lesson, despite the limited amount of time we have for lesson planning. I have happily pointed out to Thomas that they can easily convert a single lesson plan into 3-5 lessons for our students.

At all times, Thomas puts their student's safety and well being above all else. They are well-versed in social emotional learning and take great care to let their students know they are seen. Thomas has a wonderful rapport with both students and co-workers.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Connie Manna
