

Professional Reference Letters

Mr. Jordan Souther

compiled May 2021

May 27, 2021

In re: Jordan Souther Professional Reference

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Jennifer Creswell. I have served as faculty at Griffin Christian High School (now Griffin Christian School) for a total of 17 years – the past ten as a member of the high school staff. In my time at Griffin Christian, Jordan Souther served as High School English teacher. I have interacted with Jordan extensively, both as a parent of two students and a fellow teacher.

My observations of Mr. Souther, from my vantage point as a teacher and colleague, are as follows:

1. He is an excellent teacher who takes the art of teaching very seriously. He is determined to teach to every student who enters his classroom, regardless of their particular learning style, level of engagement, or interest level in his subject matter. His goal was to always offer multiple ways that each student could succeed. He was known for his epic project assignments (which always included about six different options) as well as his in-class activities, which often included students sprawled out in groups working together to create.
2. He is an exacting teacher. Students worked for the grades they received in his class. However, Mr. Souther's enthusiasm and love of learning served as a motivating force for the students in his class. Many mediocre students rose to a new level of performance in his classes.
3. He is gifted administratively beyond the regular classroom. In his time at Griffin Christian, Jordan organized teacher schedules, instructed teachers in differentiated learning, and was constantly pushing staff to work together in new ways. He encouraged teacher to collaborate across subjects and classes and to implement findings from their testing data.

My observations of Mr. Souther as a parent are as follows:

1. He created an atmosphere of curiosity and excitement in his classroom. Students "couldn't wait" until they had Mr. Souther.
2. He created extra rigor for excelling students. My son is a better writer due to his two years under Mr. Souther's tutelage. He often credits his work ethic and success in college to Mr. Souther's English Class.
3. Students were given multiple opportunities to succeed. Mr. Souther taught both of my children, one was an excellent student, one has learning difficulties. Both were successful in Mr. Souther's class because they were offered opportunities that coincided with their strengths.

As a colleague and friend, I enjoyed my daily interactions with Jordan and often sought his advice regarding how to deal with student discipline and encourage creativity.

I wholeheartedly recommend Jordan Souther for any position in an educational environment. He would be an asset to any organization.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Creswell

Griffin Christian Schools

May 27, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to provide this letter of recommendation for Jordan Souther. As the Program Coordinator/Vice Principal of McGinnis Woods Country Day School, I've enjoyed working with Jordan as a valuable member of my staff since 2019. He has taught Middle School Language Arts in grades 5th through 8th.

Jordan has impressed me with his commitment to lifelong learning. His hands on teaching style is very creative and technology driven, which cultivates a classroom environment that is dynamic and fun. He is engaging and energetic and his students respond to his teaching style with similar energy, and more importantly, an enthusiasm to learn. He relates to each of his students individually and seems to have a gift for custom tailoring his interactions with each child to optimize that moment in time.

Jordan is an exceptionally strong teacher and implements a wide variety of pedagogical methods in his classroom. His energy, creativity, forward thinking, and enthusiasm for teaching and learning are evident each day. Jordan incorporates technology throughout all his lessons and content area. He enjoys keeping his instruction fresh and often reflects on ways to better engage his students through new technologies, field trips, guest speakers and relevant themes.

Jordan continuously and successfully collaborates with his peers and regularly contributes great ideas during Staff and Team meetings. Jordan has been very involved on the Curriculum Team and has been an invaluable member and colleague to me. It's this commitment to growth and his students' and school's well-being that makes Jordan an outstanding educator who empowers his pupils.

Jordan is charismatic and creative, and often thinks outside the box. He enjoys solving problems and devising creative ways to overcome classroom issues. He has excellent classroom management skills and makes it a point to develop a rapport with students, colleagues, and parents that is characterized by mutual respect each year. Jordan has my highest recommendation for any position which he pursues, as his *can do* attitude and commitment to his students speak for themselves. Jordan will be an asset to any school community he chooses to call home. Please don't hesitate to contact me for any further information.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Silva

Program Coordinator

770-823-1342

May 28th, 2021

RE: Personal Reference for Jordan Souther

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Nicole Seltzer and I am the current middle school social studies teacher at McGinnis Woods Country Day School. I have had the pleasure of working with Jordan Souther for the past two years as a part of the same teaching team.

When observing Mr. Souther, over the past two years several quality ties come to mind:

1. He is an outstanding teacher. He has an excellent understanding of the curriculum and is passionate about teaching. He uses hands on activities, class read alouds, projects, and technology, while also encouraging students to do their best and improve their reading and writing skills.
2. He has an excellent work ethic. Mr Souther has worked with four different grade levels the past two years. He was always prepared for each of his classes with the content that was needed, as well as materials and supplies both in class and online.
3. He has a high level of excellence. Students in his class were held to high standards of learning and were able to engage in higher level discussions and activities.
4. He is a team player. He not only worked well with the other members of our teaching team, but also with administration, and families to ensure success for our students.
5. He is skilled beyond classroom teaching. Mr. Souther has done much more than teach over the past two years while at my school. He researched new curriculum for school wide implementation, he crafted schedule for teachers , as well as for midterm, finals, and standardized testing. He also gave valuable instruction to teachers on new technology and apps that would be of great use in our classrooms.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed the time I have gotten to work with Jordan Souther. Whether it was just a quick chat before school, asking his opinion of a classroom matter, or seeking advice on a student, he was always willing to help in any situation.

I would recommend Jordan Souther for any position, whether it be as a classroom teacher or an administrative position.

Sincerely,



Nicole Seltzer
McGinnis Woods Country Day School

May 20, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

Jordan Souther has been an asset to the students, staff, and families of McGinnis Woods Country Day School for the past two school years. As the Middle School Science Teacher, I have had the pleasure of working with Jordan for the school years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Because we are a small school with a "family-like" environment, I have been able to observe him first-hand as a teacher.

Jordan is engaging and the students enjoy his classes, as he encourages them to participate in activities and discussions frequently. He takes time to prepare interesting and fun lessons and I have often overheard students discussing an ELA project or assignment with enthusiasm and excitement. One project that comes to mind was a STEM activity that coincided with their reading of *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. Students worked in cooperative groups to design and build boats out of various materials. They finished the project by testing the buoyancy and "sea-worthiness" of their boats outside in a huge tub of water. The students talked about that for weeks!

Another of Jordan's strengths is his commitment to excellence, both for himself and the students. Although we work with children of different ages (5th – 8th grades) and varying needs, he encourages each child to do their best and takes the time needed to help students who require more attention. I believe the students understand that Jordan had their best interests at heart, and they respond to him with respect. This, in my opinion, helps foster a love of learning in his students.

I would highly recommend Jordan for an English/Language Arts position in your school. He would be an invaluable asset, not only to the students, but to the school family.

Sincerely,



Anne Aviles

MCGW Middle School Science Teacher
Science Olympiad Coach

May 27, 2021

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing a letter of recommendation on behalf of Jordan Souther. He has been my child's teacher in Language Arts for two years at McGinnis Woods Country Day School in the middle school program. My son has enjoyed learning from Mr. Souther. My son says that Mr. Souther has "a good sense of humor" and is "a great teacher." As a parent I would say that Mr. Souther has done an excellent job of teaching! My son's reading skills and writing skills are very strong, and I liked that Mr. Souther did a variety of books for novel studies to expose the students to books they need to read. My son his favorite novel study this year was "The House on Mango Street."

Mr. Souther incorporated technology throughout the curriculum. I really enjoyed one writing project that was completed online. My son emailed me the online book when it was completed, and I was so impressed! It contained short stories and poems with all kinds of pictures and images, and it was well edited. It was a treasure! Another online component Mr. Souther incorporated was an online reading logs called "Reading Rewards." My son loves to read, but when he earned reward points, that motivated him more. Mr. Souther did a great job of keeping my son and the other students interested and engaged with these fun components.

As a parent, I am sad to see Mr. Souther leave, and I feel that he did an excellent job of teaching language arts! My son will miss learning from him, but we wish him the best. He would be a fantastic addition to any staff!

SINCERELY,

WENDY HAMAN

770-633-9511

Hamannwen@gmail.com

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Hamann". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "WENDY HAMAN".

June 16, 2014

To whom it may concern:

Jordan Souther: firm, fair & fun! I'm writing to give you a bit of background on my former colleague. What a wonderful young man that has done a fantastic job of working with the toughest-of-the-tough elementary students. In the two years that we worked together, our administration put the most challenging students in his class. Their challenges were many, including behavioral issues, academic issues and a total disrespect for authority.

Jordan was first and foremost firm; his no goof-off approach to his class and students served him well in trying to set the tone for the year. His students in the years before were allowed to act and say anything, anytime they wanted to, so his being firm allowed students to understand the importance of learning how to work together, study, and take pride in their work.

Secondly Jordan was fair; it didn't matter what the child was having issues with in class, he treated each and every one the same. His treatment of his students showed them how the "real-world" would treat them. To say they flourished is an understatement. They started the year off not being able to treat each other with any respect and by the end of the year their class earned our citizenship award.

Lastly, Jordan was fun; he showed the students each day that in order to really enjoy something they needed to have fun trying to learn/study/work together. His no-nonsense approach allowed for all his students to respect themselves and enjoy working closely with their classmates. The fun came because the students realized their teacher really loved them and wanted them to succeed.

If you are considering hiring Jordan for a teaching position, you will not be disappointed in his performance. He is a very caring and considerate young man who is highly motivated to educate young people. Firm, fair & fun is what you will receive in a teacher who possesses a great educational skill set.

Sincerely,

Rob Shepherd

Austin Road Elementary School
Physical Education Specialist,
28 Year Veteran, Georgia Public Schools

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