

Katie Wilson
Hamilton, ON

To whom it may concern,

I am applying for the 1.0 FTE grade six homeroom/ one period of health for grade ½ position. Through the years I have developed my skills as a teacher; growth mindset, mindfulness, organization, knowledge of procedures, knowledge of curriculum expectations, knowledge of students, care, and devotion to the art of teaching. Through my experience of working with students who have exceptionalities of various ages, and in various environments, I have developed my confidence in my teaching abilities; patience, understanding, creativity and social skills. My experience working with the elderly has helped develop my patience and respect as well.

Mental health is of such importance when providing a service and working with others. Thus showing kindness, understanding and patience are tools that I always have available in my toolbox. Providing the right environment allows everyone to share that special something they offer, and it is my duty as a teacher to cultivate a safe environment in which students and staff feel comfortable enough to bloom.

Implementing Literacy and Art throughout all subjects is something I am passionate about. It allows students to develop critical thinking skills, as well as individuality. Every person has different needs, and Art in all its glorious forms provides an opportunity for them to show what they know about a specific topic in a way they feel comfortable. As a student who struggled with visualizing concepts, literature always helped cement ideas in my mind. A story allowed me to visualize how the concepts worked together and what they looked like in action.

My Teaching Philosophy:

Teaching to me is not a career... It is a gateway to opportunities. Opportunities to inspire children and guardians that learning can happen anywhere and at any age. All you need is a deep self-love and a desire to learn from mistakes. True knowledge comes from the acceptance of failure, the self-compassion to hug yourself, and the confidence to try again. Opportunities to humble myself, and share my story with children. So that the child at the back of the class will feel heard and seen. So that the child who does not have many friends, will know they are not alone. So the one who has trouble in math, will know they are smart, and just need to approach the problem from a different angle. Opportunities to work with like minded, passionate individuals who have devoted their lives to listening, crafting, reading, analyzing, reflecting, caring, and respecting others. Opportunities for growth in myself, as I learn from my students, their guardians, and my colleagues. Learning is never completed, and that is one of my most favourite things in this "curiouser and curiouser" (Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*, 1865) world. I strive to live by these words everyday; "have courage and be kind" (Cinderella, 2015), not only must you step out of your box, you must be kind, for when you do step out, you are likely to fail. The beauty of this is that within every supposed failure, there is a lesson. By allowing my students to see me practicing self-compassion when I have made a mistake, or revealed my human side, I hope they will recognize that we are all human, and it is okay to make a mistake. Instilling the belief you have all the power to stand back up and try again, because a failure is not an ending, it is an opportunity to reflect and try again.

Sincerely,

Katie Wilson