



# Ramsey Elementary

*Coeur d'Alene, ID*

March 5, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

Crystal Campos has been employed as a math remediation teacher and a Title One reading assistant at Ramsey Elementary for the 2009-2010 school year. Crystal works with students in grades 1-5 who require acceleration or remediation. As the principal, I have been able to observe her teaching and feel extremely comfortable recommending her for any elementary teaching position.

Ms. Campos' primary assignment is math. She communicates regularly with a grade level teacher representative to plan math lessons and topics of focus for the month. For grades 2, 3, 4 and 5, she supports the instruction that is happening in the homeroom by reinforcing the concepts taught each week during small group instruction. She works with students who require additional time and support. Each day Crystal uses a variety of instructional strategies, math manipulatives and hands-on approaches to connect these struggling learners more deeply with the math concepts. For instance, to solidify students' understanding of fractions, Mrs. Campos planned a mini-lesson using colored jelly beans. She used direct instruction to remind students that fractions are simply "the part related to the whole." She then gave each student a small cup of jelly beans and had them count the total number. Next the students were asked to count how many of each color they had; this varied for each child. At this point, she again reminded the students of the part/whole relationship of fractions. Their final task was to write the fraction for each color of jelly bean. They were asked to have a neighbor check their work, and the students were rewarded for their efforts by eating their 8-10 jellybeans.

In grade 1, Ms. Campos is asked to challenge our accelerated math students. Again, she works with a 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher to support the instruction that is happening in the homeroom but then takes the concepts to a higher level. Students work with problem-solving and extension activities. Crystal demonstrates teamwork and flexibility as she plans regularly with homeroom teachers to meet the needs of her students.

For Title One reading, Crystal teaches a second grade reading switch group of approximately fifteen students. The students are placed in her classroom based on their fluency, phonics and comprehension skills. They are all at or slightly above grade level and are benchmarked regularly to chart their growth. The students in Ms. Campos' switch group consistently meet or exceed their expected growth.

In Ms. Campos' classroom, expectations are clearly posted. Her organizational skills are obvious, as Ms. Campos makes sure that her lessons and assignments are planned, clearly presented, and offer plenty of variety to keep the attention of all of her students. For all subjects, Ms. Campos plans lessons that fit within the district's curriculum, careful to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all her students. Crystal picks up many new ideas from grade level teachers. Her classroom climate is positive as Ms. Campos has a great rapport with her students.

In conclusion, Crystal's dedication to meeting the needs of all her math and reading students is certainly evident. She is conscientious, flexible, collaborative, and willing to put in extra time for her students. She would be a top candidate for any elementary teaching position and a great addition to your team! Please call me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Anna Wilson  
Principal, Ramsey Elementary

**W. 1351 Kathleen Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815**  
**Phone: (208) 765-2010 Fax: (208) 769-0747**