

December 10, 2014

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my teacher, Mrs. Tasha Candela. It has been brought to my attention that she is applying for the Michigan Teacher of the Year award, and I would like to share with you my reasoning, and belief as to why she would be the perfect person for this honor.

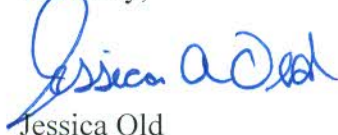
As a high school student, I have had a great deal of teachers in my life, some good, some bad; Mrs. Candela ranks above them all. The first day I met her, I was a new student from a small town. I was worried I wouldn't be happy here, but I was taking a tour of the school and I could hear her teaching from down the hall, and it made me laugh. Just from what I could hear, I knew she was passionate about teaching. When I walked into her class that day and sat down she made me feel like I had gone to that school my whole life. My stomach was still turning, but by the time I left I couldn't wait to come back. She was and still is the enthusiastic teacher I met that day. All the students in her first hour call her our dose of caffeine in the morning.

She goes above and beyond when it comes to the responsibilities of being a teacher. On top of being dependable for feedback and being fair with grades, she is always there with open arms and a brain to pick. She is the only teacher I have ever had that I feel comfortable telling personal stories, and being honest with. Her door is always open and she never disappoints when you are looking for a laugh. The environment she creates in not only her classroom, but any room she enters, makes for a safe and fun feeling.

As for her ability to educate her students, I have no words. Learning content is easier in her class than in any of my other classes. The way she is able to not only let our minds run free, but have the capability to keep us on course, is not only skill, its natural talent. She's never afraid to put herself out there, and she helps her students, including me, to feel the same fearlessness she shows us.

The best thing a teacher can do is show patience, understanding, and a love for their students. I see all of those traits in Mrs. Candela. It is my honor to write this letter for her, and I do and always will give her my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,



Jessica Old

Senior, Lake Shore High School