



June 4, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I highly recommend Maria Susanna Gildenhuyts (Passport #M00242133) as a candidate for a position within your school. As the Deputy Principal of Sunway International School, located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, I have had the pleasure of working with Maria for the past three years and three months. She is a driven and organized teacher who developed inspiring relationships with the students in both her classrooms and in the community. She has accomplished much in her three and a quarter years at Sunway International School working as a full-time teacher from March 2018 to June 2021. During this time Maria's primary responsibility was teaching the Grade 9 & Grade 11 Visual Arts curriculum at my school but she demonstrated great flexibility by taking on additional teaching responsibilities in other departments. She was also responsible for teaching Grade 10, ADA20 – Dramatic Arts, Grade 10, CHV2O – Civics & Citizenship, Grade 10, and GLCO – Career Studies.

Maria has a good rapport with people of all ages, especially students. Her ability to connect with her students is demonstrated through her passion in teaching and learning Visual Arts with a strong focus on connecting course content to transferable skills and real-world applications. Maria does this through focused student-centred pedagogy that includes inquiry-based activities, collaborative group projects, and differentiated assessments. She has developed strengths in using a variety of culturally responsive teaching and learning strategies and developed her knowledge in unit and lesson planning as well as triangulating student assessment with the use of Conversations, Observations, and Products. To aid in her teaching and learning, Maria has developed expertise in a number of educational technologies including Google Classroom, Google Apps for Education (GAPE), and SMART technologies.

Additionally, Maria assisted the Student Success programme at Sunway International School for a period of 6 months, working closely with high needs students. She helped these students to develop sustainable routines, to become better self-advocates, and to grow confidence and sense of ownership of their learning. She has taken on the teacher facilitation of our Christian Fellowship Club. Maria has also taken it on herself to curate a large collection of student art pieces to showcase to our community through the SIS website as face to face exhibitions are not possible in our current global pandemic landscape. Sumari is a tireless advocate for the school and can be relied upon to take on additional responsibilities in times of need.

Maria accomplishes this impressive list of roles and responsibilities with great initiative and with a positive attitude. She has been a valued member of the SIS community and I would recommend Maria for any position within education. She will be an excellent addition to your team. If you have any further questions with regard to her background or qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael Owen
Deputy Principal
Sunway International School