

厦国际学校

Xiamen International School

RECOMMENDATION LETTER FOR MIKE BOTT

I have worked with Mike Bott as a colleague and as his International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) Middle Years Programme (MYP) Coordinator since he arrived at Xiamen International School in August, 2007. At first I was his Grade 6 English as a Second Language (ESL) support teacher and later worked on the Technology Committee with him when he took on the responsibility of being the IT Coordinator for the school in August, 2008. This year I became his MYP Coordinator as Mike taught the MYP subjects of Math, Science and Technology. He also teaches DP Theory of Knowledge.

I am always appreciative of Mike's willingness to take on and master the IBO requirements for MYP, in writing unit plans, using the Areas of Interaction, the assessment criteria and responding promptly to any documentary requests to do with the program, such as providing Interim Objectives documentation for Technology. Mike understands the Design Cycle very well and diligently teaches this to the students in his care through setting focused tasks and providing a dazzling array of online tools. Mike is a good practitioner of the MYP because he uses the terminology with students and parents and plans his teaching units creatively according to IBO directives. This is directly observable through seeing his unit plans online using Atlas Rubicon. Mike is a creative and helpful teacher who sticks with a problem until it is solved. When I wanted to introduce Mimio technology into my classroom, we discovered we had hardware problems with the whiteboards and positioning of the overhead projectors, which just did not match. Mike persevered with local workers until this was solved. Students who need help with restoring lost passwords, solving difficulties with their First Class accounts and making their technology situations actually work at home and at school, always receive help. I also have received countless instances of assistance with improved software choices and streamlining the way I can communicate with my students, particularly with setting up and using aspects of First Class, such as combining calendars so I can view what is happening on any particular day, and facilitating collaboration conferences where students exchange ideas and suggestions on writing tasks. There is no problem he is unable to consider solutions for.

On the technology front, our school had reached a time in its development where great changes were needed to meet the future. Under Mike's leadership, the system of internal communication and curriculum planning and development went online with the advent of the programs "First Class" and "Atlas Rubicon". This required a great deal of staff, student and parent training as well. Mike planned and developed our server capacity to meet needs until well into the future. Another major achievement was the complete removal of all unlicensed programs from computers in the school and the purchase of licensed software or open-source ware for school and faculty use. Setting up and maintaining all the computers, with common software configuration, standardized logins on all systems in the school, allocating access permissions according to user groups, and working with the local support staff, has been a major accomplishment.

Mike's knowledge and experience with hardware and software referred to already is vast and his MYP experience is invaluable. Now it is time for Mike to move on to other fields and I wish him well and recommend him to future employers who could benefit from his ability with technology and MYP.

P. M. Boman

Patricia Boman

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MYP COORDINATOR and ESOL TEACHER

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