

## Calvin College Final Secondary Student Teaching Evaluation

**Comments provided by:** mentor teacher  
**Student Teacher:** Yonkers, Karen  
**Dates of Experience:** January 29-March 16, 2018  
**College Supervisor:** Bowman, Sarah  
**Cooperating Teacher:** Harkema, Katie  
**School:** River City Scholars Charter Academy  
**City:** Grand Rapids, MI  
**Grade Level:** K-8  
**Subject Areas:** Music  
**Date:** 3/17/2018

### **Comment on the candidate's knowledge in relevant content areas.**

*Karen demonstrates an in depth understanding of the music curriculum and musical skills expected at each grade level. She demonstrated knowledge of all the instrument technical skills and was able to assist students in making adjustments.*

### **Comment on the candidate's understanding of the multiple factors that influence student learning.**

*Karen was aware and open to conversations around what was going on with students in and out of the classroom. She took information about student performance and was able to show growth in regards to scaffolding instruction and skills in order for all students to make growth. Karen was always open to conversations around student needs and what was influencing student behavior.*

### **Comment on the candidate's ability to create effective lessons, including appropriate assessments that are meaningful for all learners.**

*Karen created lesson plans that connected with the students and challenged them to engage with activities and concepts. She had effective assessments for the middle school students and was showing growth in regards to assessing elementary students. She began to incorporate small group assessments through the use of stations which will continue to be developed.*

### **Comment on the candidate's professionalism and care for students as demonstrated in his/her communication.**

*Karen is a professional with clear communication to students, parents, and other teachers. She was always willing to jump in and assist where needed and was flexible in creating solutions to problems that came up. She frequently used slides during classes in order to engage students with the content. She had timely communication with supporting teacher in regards to questions and lesson plans.*

**Comment on the candidate's professionalism and care for students as demonstrated in his/her dispositions and behaviors.**

*Karen came to the classroom able to be creative and be herself while also engaging with the students and staff encouraging others and supporting where needed. She took feedback very well and immediately incorporated feedback back into her instruction which allowed for incredible growth in her lessons.*

**Comment on the candidate's professionalism and care for students as demonstrated in his/her ability to develop positive and productive learning communities.**

*Karen developed her expectations and continued to be firm and be creative in expectations and how to make the scholars successful in the classroom. She was quick to adjust and make changes in order to make the class run smoothly and create a positive, safe environment. Due to the shortness of time at River City and only seeing classes once a week, a positive culture would continue to develop as she continued to teach.*

**Faith-Based Schools: Teacher candidates at Calvin College are nurtured and challenged to develop an understanding of how the Bible informs their teaching, content, and vision for education and its connection to society. Comment on how well the teacher candidate articulates and enacts this understanding.**

**Publicly Funded Schools: Teacher candidates at Calvin College are nurtured and challenged to develop a principled perspective that informs their teaching, content, and vision for education and its connection to society. Comment on how well the teacher candidate articulates and enacts this perspective.**

*Karen is grounded in the foundation of music learning and what the students need in order to be successful. She articulates what drives her instruction and how the basics are the building blocks to success in the classroom.*

**Summary Comments:**

*Karen shows great potential in teaching elementary and her strength is teaching band. She takes feedback well and incorporates suggestions and critique well into her next lesson to show progress. Her lessons show depth and scaffolding while also challenging students in content. She has been a great addition to the classroom and has been flexible and supportive with overall school activities.*