



# SUSITNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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February 1, 2019

As Kelly Bandoch's former principal at Orion Elementary School, I am pleased to write a letter of support for her application to work in your district. I hired Kelly in the middle of the year for an unexpected opening at Orion. She had just graduated, and she commuted from Girdwood to JBER (about an hour) to be our librarian.

While I worked with Kelly, I was able to observe a dynamic, smart, and caring librarian. Not only did Kelly really know her content, she was also clear in her understanding and application of her professional organization's goals. Kelly often engaged both students and staff in learning new things about the library. She taught us new ways to use technology in the classroom (and library), including the use of new devices, apps and programs. Kelly made the learning fun instead of intimidating! She brought all of us into the new age of a school library.

Kelly jumped right in and became involved in school activities. She helped sponsor clubs, family events, and creative library activities. Kelly is the best of the best – in addition to going above and beyond in her library obligations, she welcomed the chance to provide interventions to students who needed different kinds of extra help. Through the multiple clubs, family activities, and special events, Kelly was able to get to know students as individuals. She supports the development of individual student success and the love of life-long learning and reading. She built a community within her library like I haven't seen before.

Orion is a small school, and it is important that staff work closely together. Kelly is an integral member of the Orion staff. She helps teachers develop units, supports what the teachers are doing in the classrooms by integrating the topic/content into her library lessons, and provides time and energy to support activities other staff members are engaged in.

As a principal I periodically think about the staff members I have hired over the years. My mind always goes back to Kelly and how fortunate I was to get her to join us at Orion. She is one of the best librarians I have worked with, and without a doubt, you should hire Kelly. Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions – I am proud to be her colleague!

Sincerely,

Diane Hoffbauer, Ed.D. (hoffbauer\_diane@asdk12.org)  
Principal, Susitna Elementary School