

STEWART'S CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

January 29, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter of recommendation for Jillian Richards. I have known Mrs. Richards on a professional level for the past two years. As a staff member on the campus of Stewart's Creek Elementary, she has served in the capacity of the Art teacher, yearbook coordinator, and field day coordinator. Mrs. Richards is also a valued member of our campus strategic design team.

In her role as Art Teacher she is extremely organized and creative in her instructional practices. You will often find her after school displaying student work to beautify our school halls. Mrs. Richards has collaborated with district personnel to support and ensure continued enhancement of the Fine Arts curriculum for all students. Colleagues recently chose Mrs. Richards as the East zone representative for the Lewisville Independent School District Fine Art Show. As a member of the campus strategic design team, Mrs. Richards has successfully lead discussions in support of designing instruction that engages all students.

Mrs. Richards is uncompromising in her commitment to excellence. She is quick to accept additional responsibilities and to work with collaborative projects. One of Mrs. Richards's strengths is her commitment to task and organizational skills. In my years of teaching and administration, I have not met an art teacher of her caliber. She consistently conducts herself with professionalism and demonstrates confidence in the classroom. These factors and many other attributes earned Mrs. Richards nominations for Teacher of the Year from her peers.

I highly recommend Jillian Richards to you for a fine arts position. If you have any further questions with regard to her experiences or qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Jo-Bina Grace  
Stewart's Creek Elementary  
Assistant Principal  
469-446-0371

# Kay Granger Elementary

---

April 14, 2012

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to recommend Jillian Richards for a teaching position. She was my student teacher during the spring semester of the 2011-2012 school year. As Mrs. Richard's supervising art teacher at Kay Granger Elementary, I have personally witnessed her cooperative spirit, professional attitude, and caring disposition.

Jillian immediately adapted to my teaching style, but never shied away from offering her own ideas and perspectives. She is a confident instructor and Jillian's classroom management style seemed closer to that of a veteran teacher than to the student teacher she is. She has done a fantastic job assisting me in teaching our 40+ student classroom. The students love Mrs. Richards and feel very comfortable going to her with questions regarding their art project. She was outstanding in helping those students who struggled with certain skills. She is capable of recognizing a student's potential as well as weaknesses, apart from being very dedicated and sincere.

Jillian is enriched with exceptional pedagogy skills, art knowledge, and the ability to connect with her students. With a firm tone and friendly behavior, Jillian manages to keep control in the classroom and explain simple and complex concepts to all grades of students. Besides these skills, she has excellent command over organization and preparation in the classroom. She wrote extremely detailed and well thought out lesson plans. She was always willing to adjust any parts of her lessons she thought could be improved.

Jillian has approached any and all aspects of the work involved in teaching her students with eager anticipation. In fact, in my sixteen years of teaching I have never experienced any student teacher who was better prepared and who worked harder than Jillian. She maintained a level of efficiency that was fueled by her obvious work ethic and her professional concern for her students' progress. Mrs. Richards also exhibited professional behaviors, ethics, and values. She is dependable, conscientious and professional in her appearance and demeanor. She attended all school related meetings, district art meetings, and parent conferences.

Ms. Richards has blossomed into an exceptional teacher and has earned my respect and highest recommendation. She is confident, knowledgeable, and has the skills of a seasoned teacher. Wherever she decides to accept a teaching position, I know with all confidence that she will do an outstanding job and become an asset to the school district fortunate enough to receive her application for employment.

Should you desire further information, please contact me at [dcaillet@nisdtx.org](mailto:dcaillet@nisdtx.org).

Respectfully,

Debbie Caillet  
Art Specialist  
Kay Granger Elementary

# UNIVERSITY OF NORTH★TEXAS™

DISCOVER THE POWER OF IDEAS

---

## DEPARTMENT OF ART EDUCATION AND ART HISTORY

April 24, 2012

To whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to act as Jillian Richards' professional reference. Jillian is a gem among the students I have had the pleasure of working with over the last 5 years here at the University of North Texas. She stands out in regards to maturity and commitment to public education. **Any school would find her an outstanding asset to their faculty.**

I have known Jillian for the past two years as she was a student in my undergraduate Foundations class. This is the first course students take before applying for our Visual Arts Studies degree, which encompasses PK-12 art teacher certification. In my class, her creativity, leadership, eagerness for the profession, and interest in challenging herself impressed me. **She has focused her efforts during her teaching degree on key issues such as classroom management, student-centered instruction, and technology integration within the teaching of visual arts.** Her outstanding efforts have earned her numerous honors during her studies including university funding to attend and present at the Texas Art Education Association's annual convention. Moreover, she is very well regarded by her classmates having been an active member on our University of North Texas National Art Education Association Student Chapter for the past 3 years. She also served as treasurer for our chapter during the spring of 2011 and has volunteered at numerous art events for area schools.

**To all accounts, she has conducted herself as the consummate professional during her studies and has been especially impressive during her observations and student teaching requirements.** As a future art educator, Jillian is beginning her career with a commitment to professional development that will assist her, not only in completing her studies at UNT, but also in preparing for her chosen profession in education. I have no doubt she will make the most of any opportunity she is presented with.

Yours truly,

Nadine Kalin, PhD  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Art Education and Art History  
College of Visual Art and Design  
University of North Texas  
kalin@unt.edu



April 4, 2012

It is a pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Mrs. Jillian Richards. Mrs. Richards has been my student teacher here at Byron Nelson High School this semester and I have been impressed from day one. She was prepared, professional, and positive. Her ability to step into a classroom of 30 high school students (7 classes) and demonstrate superior classroom management, lesson plan implementation skills, and inspire students to explore and achieve beyond their current level of understanding was and continues to be extraordinary. Mrs. Richards immediately was able to build a rapport with even the toughest students and they have grown as artists as a result. I hear students talk among themselves and the remarks are positive and respectful.

Mrs. Richards was eager and willing to teach the Art I, Art II 3D, Art III 3D and AP 3D design classes. She spent countless hours intertwining the units we were currently working on with new ideas that expanded the lessons. Her ability to switch from 2D to 3D and back again in the classes was beyond the scope of any new teacher I have had the pleasure of working with. The broad spectrum of media techniques such as wheel throwing, hand-building, drawing, watercolor and printmaking were not a problem with Mrs. Richards. She not only was able to design the lessons as age appropriate but tailored special needs lesson plans with standard lessons. Students are producing projects under her tutelage that will inspire others to take art.

As a teacher with 25 years' experience in K – 12 art balancing 2D and 3D curriculum, I have found it is rare to meet a teacher out of college who is able to instruct at the high school level (2D and 3D) effectively. Mrs. Richards is that person! She is without a doubt one of the most promising new educators in the field. It is without hesitation that I recommend Jillian to you as an art teacher at any grade level. Any school district would benefit from Jillian's talent and enthusiasm. Please feel free to call me or email should you have further questions.

Sincerely,

*Marcia Baggs*

Marcia Baggs  
BNHS Art I, Art II 3D, Art III 3D, AP 3D Design  
Northwest ISD Visual Arts District Team Leader  
Northwest ISD Visual Arts VASE Coordinator  
MA. Art Education  
MA. Certification; Museum Education  
817-235-8121    [mbaggs@nisdtx.org](mailto:mbaggs@nisdtx.org)    [baggs4b@sbcglobal.net](mailto:baggs4b@sbcglobal.net)

UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTH★TEXAS™

DISCOVER THE POWER OF IDEAS

---

Richard Davis  
Professor of Art  
College of Visual Arts & Design  
University of North Texas  
P.O.Box 305100  
Denton, Texas 76203

To Whom it may concern:

I first met Jillian three years ago as a student in one of my classes. She showed great creative confidence as an artist, problem solver and communicator. Needless to say this gained her the admiration of the entire faculty. This respect has grown to include her fellow students as she has demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities. I have found Jillian to be honest and straightforward in her approach to her work, business, and family. She has demonstrated a high degree of loyalty and trustworthiness to everyone she is associated with. She will certainly be an asset to any group with which she works.

Jillian has my highest support and recommendation for any position.

Sincerely,  
Richard Davis

**Berniece Patterson  
6488 Jim Christal Rd.  
Denton, TX 76207  
(940) 387-3393  
dbpat@toast.net**

**March 25, 2012**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

**I have had the pleasure of having Jillian Richards as a student teacher during the spring semester of 2012. Ms. Richards continually displays outstanding work habits and maturity.**

**Ms. Richards is very conscientious about preparing her lessons and materials in advance, effectively managing time. She demonstrates techniques and displays examples. Being knowledgeable in technology, Ms. Richards prepares PowerPoint presentations and includes videos to accommodate visual and auditory learning.**

**It is my pleasure to recommend Jillian Richards for a teaching position. Ms. Richards will be a tremendous asset to the teaching profession. If you need additional information, please feel free to call or send an e-mail.**

**Sincerely,**

**Berniece Patterson  
Student Teacher Supervisor  
University of North Texas**

DEPARTMENT OF ART EDUCATION AND ART HISTORY

April 11, 2012

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Mrs. Jillian Richards. I became acquainted with Mrs. Richards when she was a student in the pre-service art education course I was instructing, Constructing Visual Arts Practices at the University of North Texas. Jillian immediately impressed me with her maturity, responsibility, and dedication to her work in the field of art education. Jillian's leadership abilities were obvious from the beginning of the course, as she always came to class prepared and ready to take on any new challenges. She was without a doubt a positive role model for her classmates and well respected by the UNT faculty.

Jillian's art education projects were exemplarily and she was asked to share her research with the art community at the 2011 Texas Art Education Association Conference in Galveston. I was proud to have Ms. Richards represent the University of North Texas at the conference. Her professionalism and willingness to share her work with others is one of the many reasons she will make an excellent art educator. Therefore, it is without hesitation that I highly recommend Jillian Richards to you as an art teacher. If you have any other questions, please contact me by phone or email.

Respectfully,

Joana Hyatt  
UNT Doctoral Candidate  
Former UNT Teaching Fellow  
Instructor for Constructing Visual Arts Practices- AEAH 4750  
Cell phone 405-808-9101, email – [joanahtt@gmail.com](mailto:joanahtt@gmail.com) or [JoanaHyatt@my.unt.edu](mailto:JoanaHyatt@my.unt.edu)