



Recommendation for Mallory Goetz, November 2012:

Mallory joined the ISP community last August of 2011. Sadly, she is off to look for new opportunities and growth as a Teaching Librarian at the end of this school year, 2013. We certainly tried to hold onto Mallory; indeed, her value added as librarian, teacher, leader, innovator and overall wonderful member of the community is considerable. We are more than a little sorry to see her leave. It goes without saying --- before I even begin this brief description of her contributions and abilities --- that I enthusiastically and without any reservation whatsoever recommend her. She is that rare blend of professionalism, approachability, positivity and flexibility that is so critical for anyone working in an international setting.

First and foremost, Mallory is a highly effective librarian. She entered ISP at what could have been considered either just the right time or just the wrong time, depending on your perspective. We had recently undergone a significant expansion, which included the opening of a new library. The problem was that --- as with any major construction project --- we were a bit behind schedule. Mallory, in all her enthusiasm and endless sanguinity, not only developed the new room into a top level research area, she also led the way in physically relocating our old library to fit into this shiny new space. Mallory marshaled what could have been embarrassment into triumph and a source of real pride. The library is now at the center of both the high and middle school divisions. Kids seek out this space not so much to disappear, but to get work done in a comfortable, warm environment, conducive to student growth and learning. All of this is testament to Mallory, as she deftly worked with everyone from the head architect and project manager, to the person designing the special cabinetry to house iPads and laptops.

Mallory not only designed nice homes for our shiny new hardware, she also was on the cutting edge of teaching and library research, so far as technology. She improved our databases, research or otherwise, as well as got into the classroom as often as she could to improve students' general research practices, a skill sorely lacking in the 21st century due to the surfeit of material available to young minds. Mallory was passionate about this teaching piece and was always willing to work with teachers and students, grades 6-12. As her direct supervisor, I observed more than a few effective classrooms with her at the helm.

Still beyond the library, Mallory also served as Extended Essay Coordinator. As part of a school-wide goal to improve our IB results in the EE, Mallory was granted the responsibility of working with the IB Coordinator. She showed great leadership, a soft touch with even the prickliest of students and helped struggling teachers hold steady and true to deadlines. While the results are not yet in, I am willing to wager on the fact that we, as a school, will show improvement.

And, finally, outside of the classroom and library, Mallory is a really wonderful presence, able to exchange a joke or share a best practice with any one, of any age, of any background. Indeed, while Mallory's strengths are manifold, perhaps her greatest contribution is how well she gets along with all colleagues.

As I hope this letter can attest, Mallory will sorely missed. Such is the nature of international schools and I can only congratulate you if you are lucky enough to land her on your staff next year. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any point should you have questions.

Warmest Regards,

David Swartwout
High School Assistant Principal
International School of Panama
dswartwout@isp.edu.pa

