

November 14, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as testimonial to the excellent work Mrs. Yochi Paltin does in her job as Hebrew teacher at Perelman Jewish Day School. My son was a student in her class for three years. During that time, she prepared him for success in his Jewish studies and helped him attain native skills in Hebrew. Additionally, she gave him a strong foundation as a member of the global community. The reason for this is simple. She is a first class teacher who employs strategies that ensure student success.

First, Mrs. Paltin's use of full immersion in Hebrew (Ivrit-B'Ivrit) encourages students to learn more because they must use the target language. They are rewarded for speaking in Hebrew by receiving tokens. If students speak in English, they must surrender a token. At the end of the week, students count their tokens and trade them in for stickers. Once a sticker sheet is filled, students have the option of getting a homework pass or playing computer games during free periods, such as lunch or recess. These methods are wonderful ways to support positive behavior.

Secondly, Mrs. Paltin uses technology in meaningful ways. Students complete homework assignments online by visiting websites that require them to record their oral responses in Hebrew. They also practice vocabulary and complete activities in the classroom on iPads. This helps them practice in the target language. Most impressive, though, is the research the students conduct during the year. They gather information online and present reports, using Power Point.

Thirdly, Yochi establishes a fundamental connection between human beings and the environment in a few ways. She gives students the responsibility of caring for class pets. Students understand early on that animals were the prototypes of the first human beings, and they learn to relate to each other with lovingkindness, as they feed and care for the class snakes. In addition, as the environment is a natural issue of concern for the Jewish people, Yochi inculcates in students a genuine concern for the Earth's water supply. She teaches a yearlong unit about water conservation and makes the content accessible and exciting. Students share their learning in meaningful ways and take pride in their work. They care for plants in the classroom and feel responsible for the world they live in.

I can attest with confidence that Yochi Paltin is a fine educator. She cares for her students and prepares them, both academically and civically, for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelley Ruderman".

Shelley Ruderman