

Laurali Smith

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Peoria, Arizona

Month Day, Year

Dear Berlinda Honda,

I am applying for the position of ELL Specialist with your district. When I read the job description on your website, I was immediately pulled-in by the exciting pillars of the XYZ School District. Your district seems to genuinely care about the students and their success. I recently just graduated from Arizona State University this past May, and throughout my student teaching experience this past year, I came to realize how impactful it is to use student-centered learning. I feel that working within a district dedicated to student-centered learning will help educators like myself become successful in changing young lives.

During my last year at ASU, I have had the opportunity to do student teaching, which allowed me to grow substantially in my confidence as a teacher, as well as develop tools to properly work with students and fellow educators. Students and difficult situations drove me to dive into learning about classroom management, and working with coworkers to try to find a solution to the problem. During a particularly challenging lesson on the solar systems I worked collaboratively with the junior high science teacher to create a visual and tactical model to pair with vocabulary lessons that engaged the students in a way that had them engaged for a full 2 hour lesson and improved their subject test by an average of 12%. This taught me persistence like nothing ever had before, and I am extremely thankful for what this difficult, but rewarding experience taught me. Previously in my 3 summers as a camp counselor at a baking camp for high school students I honed my creative skills when modeling techniques during the cake decorating course I was able to lead after 2 summers of study under a lead camp baker. This experience is something I consistently bring to the classroom as I attempt to find new and creative ways to engage the students and keep their interest on the topic - even when it is to create a cake that is disguised as a desk object.

Growing up I had to work hard in school because English was not my first language. Learning English was extremely difficult, but thanks to my 4th grade ELL teacher, I was able to succeed in school. That teacher inspired me to do the same for kids who went through the same thing I did. For my Junior and Senior year of high school, I tutored students after school who were trying to overcome a language barrier in the classroom. I loved getting the opportunity to see their confidence and knowledge grow just by learning English. I know my compassion for this area will shine through with all of the students I teach in the XYZ district.

Thank you for taking the time to consider me for this position, I am very excited to have the opportunity to apply to such a wonderful school district! I look forward to hearing back from you over the next week. You can reach me at the number and email listed above, and I will keep an eye out for any updates.

Sincerely,
Laurali Rasputin