May 29, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

Elise Hackl, the adaptive music teacher in the Structured Independence Program, is an exceptional music educator and deserves the honor of a Those Who Excel Award.

In our four years working together, Elise consistently demonstrates passion, commitment, and a desire to be a lifelong learner. Elise’s passion extends beyond the music classroom. Although she is only here for two afternoons a week, she truly leaves her mark on the Marion Jordan community. In her second year teaching, Elise executed a holiday program to give the students in our program an opportunity to perform for the school community, a tradition that has continued on ever since. Elise consistently pops into class to further her rapport with students, inquires about student behavior strategies, checks in with classroom teachers, and implements new teaching strategies based around both special education and music education.

The connection and understanding Elise has with her students is incomparable. Elise goes above and beyond with her planning and materials ensuring that every student has a voice, even when they may not be able to speak. Elise challenges herself to learn how to communicate on multiple types of communication devices, boards, and buttons, all to give our students a means of participation.

Not only does Elise excel in individualizing lessons, but the learning targets set for our students are all at or above grade level. Our students are learning to read music, notate, and express themselves through music- something that they will be able to apply in the real world. Elise instills the same passion she has for music in all of our students, despite their differences.

The flexibility Elise has shown-particularly this year- is inspiring. Through moving rooms, changing students, implementing new technology, and other challenges Elise has constantly demonstrated professionalism. Elise puts the students first, making sure that their needs are met, and she is determined to make sure that each student is getting exactly what they need in their music education. Elise is determined to instill lifelong musicianship with every student she encounters, and has been extremely successful in doing so. Elise is extremely deserving of the Those Who Excel Award.

Sincerely,

Marcy Meyer

Marion Jordan SIP Teacher