

A N D R E A F. N E E D L M A N
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May 31, 2018

RE: Illinois State Board of Education 'Those Who Excel' Teach of Year Nomination –
Elise Hackl

Dear Selection Committee:

Our daughter Mikayla has had the great privilege to be a student in Elise Hackl's Broadway Buddies class for the past few years through the Buffalo Grove Park District and Northwest Suburban Special Recreation Association. It has been a life changing experience for Mikayla.

We originally signed Mikayla up for Broadway Buddies just as something "fun" to do. We never imagined the impact of music, theater, and Elise would have on her. She has blossomed before our eyes. Mikayla began the class very anxious and apprehensive about it. Elise worked with her to build her confidence and her comfort speaking in front of others. The class has become the highlight of Mikayla's week.

Elise has a natural way of relating to the students, the special needs students as well as the typical peers. She is very caring and compassionate and treats each student as a special individual. She goes out of her way to make sure the needs of each student are met and that the class is meaningful to them. She has such a passion for teaching and the arts and wants to ensure that the students get everything they possibly can out of her class.

We strongly recommend Elise Hackl for the 'Those Who Excel' Teacher of the Year award. In our eyes she IS Teacher of the Year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrea Needlman', written in a cursive style.

Andrea Needlman