



October 9, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Sara Kraft, who is not only a very experienced social worker, but whose whole essence is that of a social worker. Sara is a kind, caring person who strives to make others' life experiences better. She capitalizes on her gift of empathy to impart her values and skills to others. Sara always focuses on the whole child and includes the student's parents to create a wrap-around approach that optimally met the child's needs.

From 2013-2018, Sara and I worked together at Hillel Day School, where she served in the capacity as a part-time school social worker. Sara worked with students in Grades K-2 and 7-8 in a Multi-Tiered System of Support. In the first tier, Sara worked with teachers to enhance their ability to teach students how to interact in the classroom and build a collaborative classroom community. She consulted on various strategies to support the wide range of student needs that teachers were presented with in their classrooms. In addition, Sara provided classroom lessons on a variety of topics, such as respect, responsibility, friendship, empathy, tattling vs. telling, social skills, cyber safety, and much more. Sara created unique, interactive lessons that were engaging for students and effectively met social-emotional learning targets.

In the second tier of student support, Sara provided skill-building sessions in small groups to promote social, emotional, and behavioral skills for students that needed additional support. She taught students coping strategies and useful tools within many domains, such as anger management, divorce, grief and loss, friendship, emotional regulation, and others. Sara's ability to impart her knowledge to children effectively was observed in the way that our students generalized their skills in the broader school setting. In addition, parents consistently reported that their children displayed progress at home and in the community, as well.

In the third tier, Sara provided one-on-one support for students with the most intense needs. She approached our most needy students and their parents with compassion

and tenderness. Her professionalism and skill was a blessing for the students that required the most support, and these students made great progress under Sara's tutelage. She also worked diligently to connect families to resources within the community in order to optimize their growth. Finally, Sara arranged for community presenters to come to our school and have important conversations with our students and parents related to timely topics, such as social media, cyber safety, adolescent risky behavior, etc. Sara was emphatic about ensuring that all levels of our school community were taken care of, and that no constituency was underserved.

Sara's dedication, passion, and professionalism are missed, and she will certainly be an asset to whatever project she embarks upon next.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer L. Friedman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct loop at the end.

Jennifer L. Friedman, Ph.D.
Dean of Student Learning