



# Thompson K-8 International Academy

## *An International Baccalaureate World School*



Mr. D. M. Eason, Interim Principal

[Dwayne.Eason@southfieldk12.org](mailto:Dwayne.Eason@southfieldk12.org)

Dr. A. Allen, Interim Asst. Principal

[Anita.Allen@southfieldk12.org](mailto:Anita.Allen@southfieldk12.org)

*Creating a peaceful learning environment where the only expectation is excellence...*

**16300 Lincoln Drive Southfield, MI 48076 248-746-7400 FAX: 248-746-7493**

---

March 23, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

If you are looking for an ordinary, run of the mill and inexperienced social studies teacher, Ms. Sarah Anthony is not your potential new employee. In short, Ms. Anthony is a game changer and certainly worth the opportunity of an interview and a classroom in your district. I have 19 years of teaching experience in social studies and in a middle school. I have had four interns in my class and two attended Michigan State University. The MSU interns brought a poised, practiced and purposeful approach and understanding of the field of education. Ms. Anthony however, is a cut above the best and brightest I've encountered. I've watched her grow and develop into the teacher that she was destined to become. As her mentor teacher, it was my responsibility to coach Ms. Anthony in through her internship of 8 months. From the first day of meeting Ms. Anthony she exuded warmth, cooperation, energy and effort. Ms. Anthony is a stick of dynamite and a ray of sunshine as a person and a teacher. What will separate Sarah from other entry level teachers are these three characteristics: being willing, open- minded, and prepared to serve the school community.

Ms. Anthony clearly demonstrated her willingness to lend a hand and to try new teaching strategies in our classroom and beyond. She created the format of the school's I.B weebly website and assisted with the publication of the pages. Ms. Anthony regularly spends a portion of her lunch with of students that need additional help in the special education department, offers her support in the main office, has offered jumper cables to a parent in need the morning of one of her MSU observations, and has attended multiple student academic, athletic, and music programs. She was also instrumental in the creation of our visual presentation for the districts "Know Your Schools" gallery walk of schools in Southfield. Ms. Anthony also served as a committee member of our Donuts with Dads community outreach program and secured Detroit Tiger's themed donuts at a steal of a price.

Sarah has used visual learning strategies, hands on experiences and simulations to make history come alive. She created her own International Baccalaureate unit plan for our Individuals and Society Middle Years Program Year 3 class (American History for 8th graders) "The Westward Expansion and the Industrial Revolution" during her internship at Thompson K- 8 International Academy in the Southfield Public Schools district. Ms. Anthony gave the students a "Taste of the West" to peak the student's interest in their next unit of study. They dined on buffalo jerky, touched long grasses, explored the maps that lead pioneers to the west, listened to frontier songs and read letters from those that made the trek into the wild. She is also well versed on the Common Core and the academic responsibility of social studies teachers to teach the curriculum and support the student's growth and development in their informational reading and writing skills.

To say that Ms. Anthony is a ray of sunshine on a cloudy day is an understatement of her personality. Not only is she academically bright but also in her approach to her practice and disposition. Ms. Anthony has been labeled by many staff members in our building as a natural born teacher. She seeks best practice, asks questions, and makes a real effort

in her professional growth. She has taken additional classes during her undergraduate studies that have allowed her to have access to middle school students in a lab environment and to prepare lessons to be delivered in a “pop quiz” manner. This sounds rather unorthodox but it has made her purposeful in her instructional delivery, flexible in her approach and creative in planning. She accepts a challenge with a smile and has been more of a teaching partner than an intern in our classroom.

Ms. Anthony is in command of her subject matter and puts forth great effort and creativity when planning her lessons. She is focused on the curriculum and infuses activities, assignments, and assessments that are aligned to the objectives that need to be achieved. She uses problem based learning, primary documents, visual thinking and learning strategies, writing skills and allows the students to participate in the planning of their learning. The kids are actively involved in their learning and the development of the other learners in the classroom. Our kids “do” something daily in class. She provides support to our English as a second language and special education teaching partners. She holds herself and the students accountable and together they set goals for student achievement.

Ms. Anthony maintains a positive learning environment and protects the solitude of the classroom with her classroom management style. Creating the Box of Fortunes and Misfortunes was an awesome way to reward positive and correct negative behavior in the classroom. What is best about this management system is that it is totally student driven and implemented. The students write the rewards and punishments for one another and themselves at the start of the school year. This means that the kids establish and control the learning climate of our room. Ms. Anthony uses the reminder system which allows the students to make a positive choice, make a corrections to their behavior, acknowledges mistakes made and create strategies to be more successful or if all else fails a student may be sent to office or with a phone call home to a parent. Ms. Anthony makes parent phone calls, sends emails, and posts information on our classroom website that she created ([www.rankinandanthony.weebly.com](http://www.rankinandanthony.weebly.com)) to keep parents well informed and involved in the success of their child.

With all that being said, it is without hesitation that I give Ms. Anthony the highest of recommendations and hope that you will be as pleased with her work as I have been. She has been an outstanding intern and a serious contributor to the success of the Thompson K-8 International Academy community. She is genuinely loved and appreciated by the children, parents, and staff for her professionalism, dedication and her ability to be part of the solution and not the problem.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments or concerns about Ms. Sarah Anthony. I may be reached at 248-746-7401 at school or at 248-227-2971 by cell over the summer. Sarah Anthony is a game changer, don’t miss an opportunity to shift and uplift your school and or district.

Keeping Kids and their Families First,

*Dawn D. Rankin*

Ms. Dawn D. Rankin  
Thompson K-8 International Academy, I.B. World School  
16300 Lincoln Drive  
Southfield, MI 48076  
[dawn.rankin@southfieldk12.org](mailto:dawn.rankin@southfieldk12.org)  
248-227-2971 or [dawndrankin@hotmail.com](mailto:dawndrankin@hotmail.com)