

PO Box 311
Delbarton, WV 25670
February 19, 2014

Mingo County Schools
Rt. 2, Box 310
Williamson, WV 25661

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to recommend Dora I. Justice be chosen as Mingo County's Teacher of the Year. She would be an excellent candidate for West Virginia teacher of the year.

Ms. Justice is an excellent teacher who inspires her students. She plans lessons which keep her students engaged and give them confidence. As a Science and Social Studies instructor she uses all materials and resources available to her as a teacher to reach each student. She understands primary grade students enjoy and need hands on experiences. She uses her subject matter to include lots of science experiments and social studies projects, such as creating models of relief maps. She realizes the limitations of her environment and her students' abilities to work in labs and projects. She keeps the materials and work of the students simple. In order to aid their understanding she uses the Internet and video resources to allow them to see the experiment at a more advanced level. This process ensures her students walk away from any class experience confident they understand the concepts taught on any given day.

While Dora understands the importance of hands on activities for her students, she knows she must assess students in more tradition methods at the end of a unit. Knowing this she uses some class time as a study session the day before a test. During this time she reviews some of the Internet resources and terms used during experiments. She differentiates the assessment for her at-risk students.

As a colleague of Ms. Justice we often collaborate on technology projects. One of my favorite photos I have of Dora is when her eyes were alight from the experience of letting her students explain to her they found a photograph of their home using Google Earth. I could tell they were just as into the student lead lesson as she was. It was a fun day of learning for all of us.

Ms. Justice has an excellent understanding of the teaching pedagogy. She shares her insight with her peers. Teachers are always looking to her for creative ideas and activities to use in their classroom. She is a lifelong learner and at this time is working toward her doctorate. Dora Justice is an amazing teacher and would represent Mingo County magnificently as our West Virginia Teacher of the Year candidate.

Sincerely yours,

Joy Marie Hunt, NBCT
Burch Elementary
Title I Teacher/TIS