

June 9, 2010

Ann-marie Clarke, Principal
Bay Point Middle School
2151 62nd Avenue S
St Petersburg, FL 33712-5749

Dear Ms. Clarke,

During the past school year, it has been my pleasure to mentor Donna Anahata through the successful completion of her first year in the Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism (PEPSA) Project. As you may know, Donna's PEPSA project focused on the enhancement of her students' literacy skills through the development of interactive videos. The project involved the use of her Smartboard technology and software available through the Animoto website. With these tools, Donna and her students were able to create a bank of vibrant and motivating instructional videos that are individualized to the learning levels, priorities and interests of each student.

Throughout our discussions around the project, Donna has consistently demonstrated a passion for learning, both for her students as well as her own professional growth. Her interest in the project and motivation to continue with it next year have resulted a fine example for other teachers. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Donna because of these qualities.

I'm including with this letter a copy of "Enhancing Literacy: Teaching with Videos", which captures the essence of her project. This video is now posted on the CARD-USF Learning Curve, our website for educators of students with autism spectrum disorders. I have also encouraged Donna to consider presenting her project at the Teacher's Day during the 2011 statewide CARD conference in Orlando.

As her school administrator, I'm hoping you will find an opportunity to congratulate Donna on her accomplishments!

Best regards,

Mary Reed, M.A.
University of South Florida
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cc: Donna Anahata
Cindy Bania-Carter, PCSB Assistant Superintendent Special Education
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