





Black Lake Elementary  
6345 Black Lake Belmore Rd SW  
Olympia, WA 98512 (360) 709-7394  
Ian MacKenzie, Special Education  
Teacher

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my absolute pleasure to write a recommendation letter for Meghan Ochoa. We worked together at a Power Scholars program for students that were 2 years behind in 2 or more subjects and low income. The program had 120 students from K-8 and provided summer school, swim lessons, breakfast/lunch, field trips, and traditional camp activities alongside education for no cost to any of the families. It was a partnership between the school district, Power Scholars Academy, and the South Sound YMCA.

Meghan started our program as a group leader providing curriculum, camp activities, and education to a group of 20 students. She did such an excellent job in this capacity that the program director and I promoted her to assistant director of the entire program. Her combination of creativity, calm guidance, and leadership skills are exceptional, and I would not have been able to run a quality camp without her. She directly communicated with families, students, teachers, the staff team, and community partners to ensure the best possible education for the students involved in the program. Power Scholars is an incredibly hard program to work at with a lot of turnover. The fact that she was able to commit to this and advance her position while maintaining an emotionally safe and respectful environment for highly impacted students/families shows a genuine commitment to diverse learners. She worked directly with students who were learning English, had autism/ADHD/learning disorders, had behavioral struggles, and students from diverse cultural backgrounds.

I work in special education and have done so for the past 11 years. The future of educators are teachers like Meghan and that is the future that inspires me to continue providing quality instruction, no matter how difficult the job can be. It was an honor to work with her!

Sincerely,

Ian MacKenzie  
Special Education Teacher/Power Scholars Camp Director