



Phillips Academy  
**ANDOVER**

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to strongly recommend Renee Silva to continue in her current position as an Art instructor and JV swimming coach at Phillips Academy. I have had the privilege of working with Renee for the past 2 years as a fellow swimming coach for the Phillips JV Swimming team. During my time working alongside Renee, I found her to be a highly effective mentor to all (students and faculty alike).

Renee came to teach in a boarding school environment after teaching at a local public school. Her innate ability to connect with students was immediately evident. Despite having no background in competitive swimming, Renee was very effective working with all the swimmers. One of the most difficult things for a new swimmer to do is diving into the pool off the starting block; the block is so high (2- 3 feet high) it takes a great deal of courage to launch off headfirst and attack the water. In all my years coaching competitive swimming, I have never seen a coach accomplish this task better than Renee. Renee was not just teaching these student-athletes a very difficult skill, she was building an amazing level of trust, while simultaneously building their self-confidence. I wish you could have only seen the amount of pride that these novice swimmers took in not just accomplishing but mastering this very difficult skill—Renee made a difference that day to these students.

I cannot speak on Renee's ability to teach art in the classroom, but I can say that Renee is someone who has earned my respect and confidence. Renee came to Phillips with no background in swimming. Instead of complaining about the late practices and extra hours she had to spend learning a new sport, Renee brought a level of enthusiasm and commitment to the student-athletes that has invigorated my coaching.

I truly hope that you will agree with me that Renee Silva is an amazing mentor and teacher and should continue to do great things at Phillips Academy.

Sincerely,

Dale Hurley  
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