



September 2009

To Whom It May Concern

Ruamrudee International School is one of the largest and oldest international schools in Bangkok. We have approximately 1700 students from preschool through grade twelve. RIS is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). We follow an American –style curriculum and also offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses as well as the International Baccalaureate Diploma program in the high school.

Matthew LeGassick has been a valued member of the Middle School faculty since August, 2005. I have seen him develop strong relationships with both students and staff. In collaboration with other staff members, he has worked on curriculum development, made positive contributions to our standards-based reporting initiative, developed activities for Earth day, arranged workshops for all of Middle School during International Ozone Day, and has piloted a successful homework “Hot-line” to communicate daily classroom expectations with parents.

Matt believes that a student’s education is not restricted to the confines of a classroom. He devotes significant energy organizing grade level field trips of varying length that address both the social and academic sides of student life. In the process, he has demonstrated organizational skills as well as the communication skills necessary to negotiate a 3 day/ 2 night advisement trip for 7 homerooms.

His rapport with students is positive and professional in-nature; it is clear that students respect his authority yet find him non-threatening. In his class, they are invariably engaged and on task. His room is always decorated with samples of student work displayed in a lively manner.

Matt works very well in a collaborative setting. With the other grade seven Science teachers, he has developed curriculum benchmarks, assessment instruments and collaborative units. They have occasionally swapped classes so that each teacher’s expertise could be maximized.

Throughout his time at RIS, Matt has shown the school a great deal of support by teaching grade six and seven General Science in addition to an exploratory course called Discovery Science. This year he is also teaching both Regular and Express Pre-Algebra. This variety of courses, his excellent performance as Head of the Science Department, his success in promoting and organizing outdoor learning, as well as his role as Seventh Grade Level Coordinator, has clearly demonstrated leadership abilities.

Outside of the classroom, Matt actively seeks out professional development opportunities: he has explored Web page design, Differentiated Classroom practice, Classroom Assessment For Learning and Exploring Scientific Inquiry; he attended the TechEx conference in 2006; he attended EARCOS workshops on collaborative student assessment; he has also furthered his knowledge about the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program with regards to Science.

Matt has gained the respect of his colleagues by being professional as well as open and approachable. Sometimes, in an overseas setting, social relationships can have a profound impact on professional relationships; in Matt’s case, he and his family have developed a strong supportive network of friends that compliments his life at RIS.

I have no reservation recommending Matt whether you are considering him as a Science teacher, a Head of Department or an administrative candidate. He will prove to be a solid dependable colleague.

Michael Baudisch-McCabe

Assistant Principal – Middle School
Ruamrudee International School

