

# James Pennington

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To Whom It May Concern::

This letter is to provide an informative summary of the teaching skills, knowledge, and attributes that I have acquired through years of college course work, work experience, football coaching, and classroom instruction opportunities. I currently work as a Secondary English Language Arts Teacher and High School Football Coach.

I have been volunteering, teaching, and coaching in various high schools in Santa Rosa over the past four years. I began volunteering as an assistant coach for the Santa Rosa Stallions youth football program, mentoring a group of young kids to assist them with making the team and staying on the team by keeping up their grades. I started working inside of the classroom as a volunteer assistant at Montgomery High School. I started to focus on coaching more intensely when I walked on as an assistant coach at my old high school, Cardinal Newman. As an assistant coach, I began to work on my individualized instruction, communication with students, and collaboration with other professionals. Once I had proven myself responsible to the varsity coaching staff, I was given the opportunity to sign a coaching contract primary offensive line coach of the freshman football team. I began to apply and create my own visual instruction models. Develop lesson plans, assess student understanding of concepts, and adjust future lessons based on my assessment of student performance. Over this past school year, I have been teaching at Santa Rosa High School. I began as a student teacher in four ELA classes and took over two of those ELA classes in the Spring. During this year I worked extensively with the application of the most recent common core standards in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade ELA course and the 11<sup>th</sup> grade college preparatory ELA course. I had many Spanish speaking students at my placement school, providing daily opportunities to apply the 2015 English Language Development framework, a system I have grown very familiar with. This past year of student-teaching has also allowed me to learn extensively about responding to students with different learning needs by applying a universal learning design to each of my lesson plans. I have been working with students, parents, teachers, and coaches, both as a coach and teacher for the past four years, sharpening my own pedagogical skills to someday be given the opportunity to progress those skills further as a full-time English Language Arts teacher.

If you are interested in meeting with me for an interview or have any further inquiries, please contact me at 707-321-0466, or email me at penninja@sonoma.edu. I am ready to fully embrace the start to my teaching career. I hope your school community is considering hiring an enthusiastic educational mentor that will benefit students, staff, and parents. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

James Pennington