

July 3, 2015

Angela Ryan
Teacher
Milton Hershey School
Hershey, PA 17033

Dr. Bonnie Botel-Sheppard
Executive Director
Penn Literacy Network
Graduate School of Education
University of Pennsylvania
3700 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

RE: Angela Ryan, high school teacher and multi-year facilitator of Penn Literacy Network (PLN) courses on campus at Milton Hershey School

Dear Dr. Botel-Sheppard:

One of the greatest needs for all schools is to provide ongoing professional learning that increases educator effectiveness and results for all students. That learning should be continuous and aligned to identified goals.

I am writing this letter to formally recognize the effectiveness of the PLN courses that have been offered to our educators over the years. We have developed a partnership of more than 15 years with PLN. ALL of our new educators are enrolled in PLN1, and Milton Hershey School encourages instructors and administrators to take additional PLN courses which are offered on our campus. Last year, we offered three PLN courses for our educators and will do so again next year. The courses begin in August and are completed in April (one evening per month).

Because of this long-standing relationship with PLN, our instructors and administrators understand that literacy skills are a requisite across the curriculum. We speak the same "literacy" language. And because of the school's ongoing support for PLN, our staff also respects the value of the courses.

Students who develop a repertoire of literacy and learning strategies are prepared to tackle the content and needs of all content areas. Our PSSA/Keystone results are one determiner of our success in this consistent, high-level professional learning.

2013-2014:

Reading 4-8 – Milton Hershey was in the top 6% of districts on % Proficient or Advanced

Reading 4-8 – Milton Hershey was in the top 3% of districts on Average Growth Indices reported on PVAAS

Literature – Milton Hershey School was in the top 1% of districts on % Proficient or Advanced

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PLN courses have provided our faculty with practical, research-based strategies that have the power to transform classroom learning. We have harnessed the power of PLN courses and look forward to many more years with the Network.

Sincerely,

Angela Ryan
Milton Hershey School