

# APPLICANT INFORMATION FORM

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

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Name

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Current Grade Level(s) Taught

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Current Subject(s) Taught

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Years in Current Position

---

Total Years of Teaching Experience

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Languages Other than English Spoken Fluently

Areas of National Board Certification Achieved or In Progress:

## SCHOOL INFORMATION

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School District

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School Name

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School Size

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District Size

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School Demographic

# EDUCATIONAL HISTORY AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

List all below, most recent first.

## EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION

College or University	Dates Attended	Degree Earned (i.e., B.A. in Math)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Name of High School Attended	City	State	ZIP Code
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## EMPLOYMENT RECORD OF SERVICE (Include grade level and/or subject area)

School District	Position Held	Dates
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS (Include offices held and/or other relevant activities)

Membership	Position Held	Dates
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**LEADERSHIP IN STAFF DEVELOPMENT (Include leadership in the training of future teachers)**

Title	Position Held	Dates

**AWARDS AND OTHER RECOGNITION OF TEACHING**

Title	Dates

## **ESSAY QUESTIONS**

Limit all following responses to spaces provided.

### **PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY**

**What were the factors that influenced you to become a teacher?**

**Describe what you consider to be your greatest contributions and accomplishments in education.**



## **PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING**

**Describe your personal feelings and beliefs about teaching, including your own ideas of what makes an outstanding teacher. Describe the rewards you find in teaching. How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in your personal teaching style?**



## **EDUCATION ISSUES AND TRENDS**

**What do you consider to be the major public education issues we face today? Address them in depth, outlining possible causes, effects, and resolutions.**





## **THE TEACHING PROFESSION**

**What do you do to strengthen and improve the teaching profession?**

**What is and/or what should be the basis for accountability in the teaching profession?**



## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

**Describe your commitment to your community through service-oriented activities including volunteer work, civic responsibilities, and other group activities.**

**OKLAHOMA TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

**As the Teacher of the Year, you will serve as a spokesperson and representative for teachers and students. What is your message? What will you communicate to your profession and to the public?**

## **SHARE A LESSON**

**Describe a lesson or unit that defines you as a teacher. How did you engage all students in the learning, and how did that learning influence your students? How are your beliefs about teaching demonstrated in this lesson or unit?**

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the 2020-2021 Bethany Elementary School Teacher of the Year, Valerie Brink. We have worked closely together for five years teaching Kindergarten. During this time I have come to depend on her for so many things that make me a better teacher.

Valerie is one of the most professional, loving teachers I have had the privilege of collaborating with throughout my 22 years. She is always a fantastic representation of the school district and its values to all she encounters. She is a team player that can both follow and lead. We have relied on her for so many ideas and talents in our kindergarten team.

Perhaps the quality I admire most in Valerie is her expertise in the field of early childhood. She is a Nationally Board Certified Teacher. If there is a best practice in education, I guarantee Valerie has done it or knows about it and is in the progress of implementing it. Year after year families at Bethany benefit from her extensive training and on the job experience.

We as a team marvel at her fun approach to learning and discipline in her classroom. She can meet a child on their level and explain anything in a way a 5 year old can comprehend. It is not unusual to see her dressed as Clifford the Big Red Dog one day and a Superhero the next. The students love her playful nature and willingness to engage on a level they can enjoy.

Valerie is always eager to help with any assignment that is given to our team. She has creative, over the top ideas and unbelievable poems to help us all be successful and look good! We look to her for guidance and input on a daily basis.

I am grateful to work with this stellar teacher. I appreciate all the innovative ideas she shares. I depend on her as a sounding board when in uncharted areas in the education field. She represents Bethany Schools so well. I know she is completely deserving of her next role as Oklahoma Teacher of the Year.

Sincerely,

Loretta Boyd  
Kindergarten Teacher  
Bethany Elementary

June 27, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

As an administrator with Bethany Public Schools, I am writing this letter of recommendation for Mrs. Valerie Brink. Mrs. Brink is a Kindergarten teacher in our Early Childhood Center. I have had the honor and privilege to spend time in Mrs. Brink's classroom as a special guest and as an evaluator. No matter the visit, Mrs. Brink is always in teaching mode. She has a passion for teaching that flows throughout her lessons and her love for her students. She cares deeply for her students and loves them with all of her heart. She has a positive rapport with her parents, students, and colleagues, alike. Students are drawn to her and her zest for all things learning. She has a way with her students that make them feel valued and safe while in her classroom. Students are encouraged to participate. They are celebrated. They are loved.

Mrs. Brink often dresses up to bring an entertainment value to her lessons. She spends countless hours preparing lessons that are engaging and include a deeper level of knowledge and understanding than most classrooms. The patience that Mrs. Brink has with her students seems unending. She listens to her students and validates their feelings. She is a phenomenal educator. Mrs. Brink arrives at school daily with a positive attitude and it carries over to her students and peers. Her students enjoy school and look forward to learning each day.

It is without hesitation that I recommend Mrs. Brink for Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. She is fun, positive, and cares deeply for her students. She is everything that is right with public education today.

Sincerely,

Kiley Donley  
Dean of Students  
Bethany Earl Harris Elementary  
Bethany Public Schools





## Bethany Elementary School

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Terra Deupree  
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Attendance Line for 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>  
(405) 499-4623  
(405) 499-4624

Attendance Line  
for PreK-KDG  
(405) 499-4645

July 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

It is without hesitation that I write this letter of recommendation for Valerie Brink. I was fortunate enough to hire Mrs. Brink in 2016, and she has had an immediate impact on our school. Prior to arriving, Mrs. Brink had earned Teacher of the Year honors at her previous school in 2006-2007. She had served as a team leader, mentor teacher, curriculum mapping committee member, Early Bird instructor, and was the PTA president. When Mrs. Brink arrived, she immediately earned the respect of everyone as she introduced new ideas to her teaching team and brought a positive outlook to every situation. She continues to mentor student teachers and serve on several school committees.

In addition to being a great teacher, Mrs. Brink is a lifelong learner. She continually thrives to develop her instructional skills by constantly seeking professional development opportunities. To name a few, she has attended Literacy First, Zoo Phonics, Daily 5, Harry Wong, Flip Flippen, Love and Logic, Larry Bell's 12 Powerful Words, Spanish in the Classroom, and Great Expectations. Mrs. Brink is also National Board Certified. Mrs. Brink is an amazing educator, but continues to change her methods to match a changing society.

In addition to all the amazing things Mrs. Brink has accomplished in her career, the thing that separates her from other educators most is her love for every student. Mrs. Brink excels at working with children with very diverse needs. Whether they have learning disabilities, social or emotional challenges, or behavior needs, Mrs. Brink welcomes them with loving and open arms. However, Mrs. Brink doesn't stop there. She also creates a culture in her classroom that extends that acceptance to all her students within the class. She teaches them to accept each other through patience and understanding. When you walk into her room, you can feel a difference in how loving and caring the atmosphere is.

Many teachers can be excellent instructors, but Mrs. Brink goes beyond academics. Her high expectations, encouragement, and culture of acceptance separate her from many other great educators. I am proud that she is representing Bethany Public Schools this year.

Sincerely,

Reuben Bellows  
Principal, Earl Harris Elementary  
Bethany Public Schools