



Valleyview Secondary School

1950 Valleyview Dr., Kamloops, BC, V2C 4C2

Phone: (250) 372 5231

Fax: (250) 377 2248

June 18, 2026

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to recommend Alexa Damberger for a teaching or TTOC position in your district.

My name is Darby Turner and I am a high school Chemistry and Science teacher at Valleyview Secondary in SD #73–Kamloops/Thompson in Kamloops, BC. I had the pleasure of being Alexa's Teacher Mentor for both her first short practicum in September, 2025 as well as her long certification practicum in Feb-May, 2026. I have been teaching for 32 years and have mentored a large number of Teacher Candidates, and I can confidently say that Alexa's passion for teaching and ability to connect with her students is amongst the best I have seen.

It is evident that Alexa understands the importance of building relationships with her students and the positive impact relationships can have on the learning environment and on her ability to naturally and respectfully manage the classroom. From her first day in my class, she was able to quickly connect with the students and establish herself as a valued and respected adult in the classroom. Throughout both of her practica, she prioritized touching base with as many students as possible every day in each class.

During her certification practicum, Alexa was able to pivot from the expectations and behaviours of Science 8 to the expectations and behaviours of Chemistry 11 seamlessly, demonstrating a good understanding of the differences between juniors and seniors and how to adjust and interact appropriately with both age groups. She has a kind and calm demeanor and her students clearly felt comfortable and confident in her abilities.

Alexa is a natural and confident new teacher. Her lessons and assessments were well-thought-out and she was always well-prepared. She regularly provided opportunities in her lessons for active, student-centered learning activities and hands-on lab experiences. She supported students with a variety of abilities, meeting them where they are at and ensuring all learners had the opportunity to contribute in class. Notably, during her practicum, she made a strong connection with a new ELL student and helped him develop language and confidence such that by the end of practicum he was regularly answering questions in class discussions.

Alexa demonstrated professional qualities of a more experienced teacher. She collaborated well with school staff, participated in school spirit days, supported students' extra-curricular activities, and regularly made herself available at lunch for students to catch up on missed work or receive extra support in their learning.

Alexa has many strong skills and abilities as a new teacher, but exceeding all is her ability to quickly connect with her students, and make them feel comfortable and seen. Her students

benefit from her guidance, motivation, and compassion as she calmly but firmly helps them grow in their learning. She is a passionate teacher who is dedicated to her students' development and general well-being. I have no hesitation in recommending her for a position in your school district. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darby Turner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'T'.

Darby Turner (she/her), BSc, MA (Leadership & Administration)
Chemistry & Science Teacher, Valleyview Secondary
Sessional Instructor, Faculty of Education, TRU
(250) 372-5231
dturner@sd73.bc.ca