



**TO:** Dr. Whitrock and the Ripon Area School District Board of Education  
**FROM:** Samantha Behnke, Elementary/Middle School Odyssey Principal  
**DATE:** 10/25/2024  
**RE:** Recommendation for Hire — Marissa Siem

It is my recommendation that the following individual be hired for the 2024-2025 school year:

**Name:** Marissa Siem    **Position:** Part Time 6-8 Teacher  
**Location:** Odyssey Academy of Virtual Learning

**Certification:**

Position or Subject (WI DPI Code)	Level	State	Year Expires
T001- Teacher; 1777- Regular Education	Grades 1-8	WI	Lifetime
T001- Teacher; 1734- Social Studies	Grades 1-8	WI	Lifetime

**Education:**

Name of School	Degree	Date Earned	Major(s)
University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire	Bachelor	05/2002	Broadcast Journalism
Alverno College	Certification Program	12/2007	Elementary/Middle Education Minor: Social Studies

**Process:**

<b># of Applicants</b>	2
<b>Quality of Applicants</b>	The position drew 2 applicants at the time of interviews; Marissa was the only candidate that had the correct license for this position.
<b>Interview Team</b>	Samantha Behnke, Megan Prellwitz, Anissa Kramer, Kristal Mott, Mary Whitrock, Chrissy Damm, Vince Propson, Manddi Kraus,
<b># of Candidates Interviewed</b>	1
<b>Quality of Candidates Interviewed</b>	Marissa comes to us with 15 years of teaching experience primarily at the 3-8 grade levels. Many of those years had a literacy or social studies emphasis. She also has 1 year of virtual experience.
<b>Notes/ Reference Checks on Candidate</b>	Marissa comes highly recommended by her former principals. One principal noted that “she is very passionate about what she teaches and is not afraid to spend countless hours preparing..” This reference also stated that “she is able to form trusting relationships with her students while still holding those students accountable for the learning they are responsible for.” Another reference stated that she was “one of the most professional teachers he has worked with”. Marissa holds a regular education teaching license for grades 1-8 and a social studies teaching license for grades 1-8.. The combination of these and her extensive teaching background will make her a great addition to our 3-5 teaching team.