



## AMERICAN COOPERATIVE SCHOOL OF TUNIS

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IB World School

Daphne J. Neal, Secondary Principal

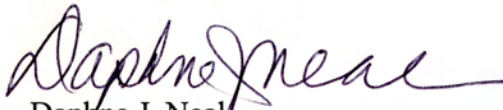
Based on my awareness of the wealth of expertise that Mary Alice Osborne can offer to students and to a school community, I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation on her behalf, as she seeks the position of Library Media Specialist. Mary Alice is without a doubt one of the most talented and creative librarians with whom I have had the pleasure to work. She brings a unique set of experiences and skills, which not only enhances her role as a school librarian, but also supports the vision of the school. I have first-hand knowledge of her contributions to our school from three perspectives-- as her colleague, as her supervisor, and as a parent.

I have worked very closely with Mary Alice at the American Cooperative School of Tunis (ACST) since August of 2004. Her arrival coincided at a time when our new library was under construction. She was responsible for choosing the library interior design, selecting the furnishings, expanding the collection, establishing new operating rules and procedures, and hiring new staff members. Collaborative in her approach to problem solving, Mary Alice solicited input from parents, faculty and students in fulfilling these tasks. Her goal was to have the library support the curricular program and make it the "hub" of the Upper School.

Mary Alice's vision of a "school library" is not the traditional one where students come only to check out books and to do research. Quite the contrary, it is a dynamic place that serves a myriad of purposes and uses. It is an inviting place where students and parents are respected and where many activities and programs take place. It is a place where students enjoy being. Student work is often on display; special collections are featured, and even assemblies are held there. Collaboration is actively encouraged here at ACST, and it includes the library where Mary Alice reinforces this collaboration. For example, through the monthly library themes/celebrations she has established, the literacy initiatives she has sponsored, her sponsorship of a student and adult book club, her sponsorship of the yearbook, and her role as a student advisor. Mary Alice has managed to touch every facet of student life at the school. In addition, she has succeeded in instilling a love of reading in our students and she has worked to enable them to become skilled researchers.

Mary Alice has worked collaboratively with our faculty in curriculum revision, in enhancing subject collections, in preparing bibliographic and reading lists and in instructing students in research methods and techniques. She has expanded our ability to provide research opportunities through subscriptions to appropriate electronic search engines, and she has worked closely with our International Baccalaureate (IB) faculty to develop our IB collection by keeping abreast of current literature and resources. Providing in-service workshops about literacy, reading resources, and appropriate uses of the internet, Mary Alice's leadership has been recognized as she was recently selected to serve as the K-12 Coordinator for Library Media and Technology.

It is obvious that Mary Alice is an excellent teacher and librarian and would be an invaluable addition to any organization or institution. Her sensitivity, overseas experience, and cultural awareness serve to enhance her effectiveness as a librarian and in the community at large. I am very impressed by her adaptability and flexibility and I would welcome any opportunity to work with her again. Mary Alice has been willing and able to do whatever she could for the good of the students and the school. She has been a tremendously positive asset to ACST, and at the same time that I applaud her efforts to grow professionally, I would be less than forthcoming if I did not say that I am saddened by the prospects of her leaving our school. I am certain, however and very confident that Mary Alice Osborne will make a positive addition to any school community that is fortunate enough to employ her.



Daphne J. Neal  
Secondary Principal  
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