

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Akshita Kaplay, and I am a school counselor at Turner/Bartels K-8 School in Tampa, FL. Over the course of the 2024-2025 school year, I have had the opportunity to serve as Mrs. Shaffer's Practicum and Internship Supervisor over two consecutive semesters. Having worked with her for almost the entire year, I wanted to state that it has been an absolute pleasure watching her grow, learn, and adapt so well to the challenges of the school counseling profession.

There are many qualities that are needed to be an efficient school counselor- time management, flexibility, taking initiative, and above all- putting the needs of the student first above everything else. I know that Mrs. Shaffer demonstrates all these qualities and more, because I have seen it firsthand. She did an excellent job in doing a group with 3rd Graders the first semester, and also when she taught lessons in kindergarten for her internship. What impressed me immensely is how she always sought feedback and included teachers in her planning for lessons during her internship.

I believe that she is ready to serve as a school counselor, because she quickly adapted to working with the different ages/grade levels of the students that we serve. In her time here- she was working with children as young as three and as old as nine. Children between those ages change so much- and it is vital to meet that child at that range of their development and go from there. She did a wonderful job adjusting to the different needs of all the students at our schools.

There are many different hats that a school counselor must wear, and I can say that Mrs. Shaffer did an amazing job switching back and forth between them to accommodate the child(ren) that she was currently working with. She is enthusiastic to learn, very reliable, and communicates well. I am honored to recommend her for this position, so please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Akshita Kaplay, *School Counseling Supervisor*
Pre-K-2nd Counselor at Turner/Bartels K-8 School
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