

Walter M. Brown Elementary School  
Sharile Abbasi, Principal  
Tammy Clarke, Asst. Principal  
Scott Cortez, MTSS

**April 27, 2026**

**To Whom It May Concern,**

I am delighted to recommend Emily Holliday, who served as a school counseling intern at our elementary site for two months. In that short time, she demonstrated professionalism, initiative, and a genuine commitment to supporting both students and staff.

Emily worked on campus three days a week and quickly built strong rapport across our school community. She introduced herself with confidence and ease and became a visible, approachable presence. I frequently observed her engaging with students on the playground, checking in with intention. Students naturally gravitated toward her—even when she was already supporting others—which speaks to the safe, trusting environment she created.

One of Emily's key strengths is her independence and self-direction. She managed her time effectively, developing her own schedule within the guidelines I provided. She was attentive to expectations, asked thoughtful questions when needed, and consistently followed through. Our regular debriefs reflected her reflective practice, and her detailed notes supported strong follow-up and accountability.

Emily contributed meaningfully to our school counseling program. She developed engaging, age-appropriate content for our counseling Google Classroom and facilitated SEL-focused lessons for primary grades. She collaborated closely with teachers, taking time to understand classroom needs and delivering targeted, effective support for students.

Her work aligned with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) National Model, supporting students' academic, social-emotional, and behavioral development. She effectively contributed within a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework through both Tier 1 classroom instruction and Tier 2 targeted supports such as small groups and student check-ins. In addition, her work complemented our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) practices by reinforcing positive behavior, building relationships, and contributing to a supportive school climate.

Beyond her direct counseling work, Emily became a trusted presence among staff. Teachers frequently sought her support for student check-ins and counseling needs, which reflects both her relational strengths and her ability to build trust quickly.

I am confident that Emily is well-prepared to step into a school counseling role and thrive. She has a strong understanding of the profession and has demonstrated the ability to contribute to a comprehensive, student-centered counseling program. Any school community would be fortunate to have her.

**Sincerely,**

Julie A. Von Berckefeldt, Ed.D.  
School Counselor | Brown Elementary School