



Lincoln Senior High School

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November 9, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Mr. Tom Torrento for your open position. He represents not only the true definition of a dedicated band director; he embodies all of the qualities of the most prodigious of educators for any content.

I have supervised Tom as the principal of Lincoln High School, where he began directing our band three years ago. Prior to that, he was leading the Middle School and Elementary band programs. Currently, he splits his time between both the Middle School and High School, which means approximately 200 students per day.

Of his student caseload, the High School band makes up about half and he sees them all at one time each morning. Part of the reason why all nearly 100 students are in a single class is because in the three short years that Mr. Torrento has been at the High School he has increased the size of the program by about double. With this rapid influx of music students, a challenge we faced was maintaining and accruing instruments for all of them. Luckily, this was no road block for Mr. Torrento. He reached out to the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation and ultimately received one of the largest grants the foundation had ever given. Our partnership with Mr. Holland's Opus continues to this day and the total value of what they have provided our district soars into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. With all of these improvements to the program, he can boast fantastic ratings in the band's first trip to State Festival in over a decade and he consistently has student involved in honors bands across the county and beyond.

While Tom's improvements of the music program are unparalleled, I would be remiss not also mention his tireless dedication to his students' overall character improvement. Mr. Torrento prides himself in having strong working relationships with all of the students, which allows him to gain their trust and respect easily, when that is not always the case for teachers in our urban community. With this rapport, he is able to insist that his students maintain high grades and appropriate behavior during school. When he hears that one of his students is slipping in either area he immediately begins partnering with parents, teacher, administrators, counselors, whoever he feels will be able to support the effort to ensure that student is on the right path. With the goal of all of his students maintaining academic excellence in mind, he has been able to begin Lincoln's first-ever chapter of Tri-M Music Honor Society.

I cannot say enough how deserving Tom Torrento is of whichever position he is choosing to apply for. You will be more than well represented to hire him this year. If there is any further information that I can provide to help you make this decision, please to not hesitate to contact me at the number or email below.

Sincerely,

Billie Sczepaniak

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