



August 25, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of a colleague of mine, Tom Torrento. I have known Tom since 2012 when he did his student teaching in the Van Dyke Public Schools in Warren, MI, where I was employed at the time. Following my departure for my new district, Tom was the unanimous choice to be hired to take my place. I felt very confident that someone I trusted would be taking over a program I spent years building.

Tom is a tireless worker, and he is one of the most motivated teachers I have ever known. He is a fierce advocate for his students, and is constantly looking for ways to enhance their learning and classroom experience. Over the past three years, Tom has repeatedly applied for grants to benefit the students at Lincoln Middle School. He has been awarded over \$190,000 for new instruments, music supplies, technology, and a remodel of the music library, among other things. Tom has made it a point to use technology in his classroom as well, as one of his grants was to obtain a SmartMusic iPad studio for his students. His students have consistently earned first and second division ratings at MSBOA events such as Solo & Ensemble and Band Festival. One of Tom's priorities has been to get as many students in school involved in band as possible. Across three grades, Tom has increased the size of the program to 165 students, which is twenty-five percent of the school's student body.

I have known Tom for three years; he is very gifted when it comes to communicating with and motivating his students. This past summer, I was lucky enough to have Tom work as an instructor at Grosse Pointe South High School's marching band camp. I was constantly impressed with Tom's ability to keep the pace of rehearsal moving quickly while continuing to be positive and encouraging with the students. He has high expectations for all students; he continually raises the bar for them when he senses they are getting close to achieving the goal. Most importantly, in the short span of one week, Tom developed a great sense of trust with my students, and they worked very hard for him as a result.

I felt very fortunate that my former students in Warren had such a caring and qualified teacher when I left, and I am privileged to count Tom as a colleague today. I have seen Tom repeatedly look out for the welfare of his students, and I am confident that he will succeed in any school district. Any school that hires Tom will be getting an outstanding teacher who will never stop working and advocating for his students. Please do not hesitate to contact me to speak on his behalf.

Sincerely,

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