

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL

22500 Federal
Warren, MI 48089
"We Build Champions for Life!"



Michael Wiltse
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To Whom It May Concern,

Tom Torrento's nomination as Michigan Teacher of the Year correctly places him at the apex of dedicated professionals. Tom's commitment to student education, skill development, and individual integrity; using music as the vehicle, is knowledgeable throughout our district and community. Tom demonstrates daily a tremendous internal drive to make a difference. He possesses an uncanny level of energy that manifests itself in projects started and goals accomplished. He actively pursues new band students and with his grant from Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, Music Rising, and donations of band equipment from Fender, he can equip these new students with a proper instrument. Those students who have been involved with the bands now have the professional instruction from Tom and the professional instrument to complement the instruction. Tom's classroom instruction yields tremendous performance growth due to his commitment to excellence and an understanding of how to properly motivate each student.

Tom is extremely strong in technology and has used that skill to improve student performance through his Band Karate skill development. As students practice at home, they can email their performance goals back to Tom and earn different colored "belts" of achievement.

Tom is constantly seeking new ways to fund program needs to facilitate growth in the program. As he has found success in meeting equipment and financial needs, he has never wavered from his initial commitment to build a band program that works as hard as he does and earn high individual and ensemble ratings. He also has the concomitant goal of infusing a skill and talent onto our students that they can carry as a lifelong strength and accomplishment.

Tom does not just seek to build his program but exerts a lot of time towards student development in both the academic setting and personal growth. Our community has a lot of emotional, financial and basic material needs and Tom helps meet those as a true giver of time and talent. He will not only counsel students who need his help at school, but take phone calls from students while he is away from work.

We here at Lincoln Middle School are convinced that Tom never sleeps. He is constantly exploring new ways to improve himself, his students, the band program, and our school. He is the consummate professional and we appreciate his presence. We are fortunate to have him

Sincerely,

Michael Wiltse