

May 12, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this recommendation in support of Mr. Thomas Torrento, an applicant for your announced band director vacancy. I have had the pleasure of knowing Tom and observing him in various capacities for the past seven years; first while he was a student of mine at Eastern Michigan University during his undergraduate studies, and for the past three years during the beginning of his career establishing himself as a model music educator. A down-to-earth person of great talent and exceptional character, I am convinced that Mr. Torrento is the person you are looking for to lead your program. I have no doubt that he will be a dynamic addition to your school community.

Tom is the whole package, and he is well on his way to becoming a respected leader in our profession. During his three years as Director of Music at Warren Lincoln MS and as Associate Director of Bands at Warren Lincoln HS, he has brought distinction to the district and its music program through his skilled and creative teaching methods. His knowledge base and successful experience encompasses a full range of music teaching, including instrumental, vocal, jazz, and marching band. His recruiting efforts in this district are impressive, and the growth in his music programs substantiates the students' enthusiasm and quest to seek out excellence.

A conscientious young man with a work ethic beyond reproach, Tom demands high standards in all that he does. During his time at EMU, he consistently sought out opportunities to expand his knowledge and continue to grow, both as a musician and teacher. Tom has proven that he understands the importance of this belief, as he has undertaken intensive summer study to complete a Master of Arts degree this July. The many accolades and awards he has already achieved are testaments to his deep level of commitment to his craft and to his students. A person with an infectious positive attitude, Tom has an innate ability to relate to people of all ages and abilities, and to motivate them to achieve their best. In my classes, Tom demonstrated a complete understanding of pedagogical approaches and instinctive knowledge of which method to employ for the best results. It is no surprise to me that he and his students are achieving at such a high rate.

At Eastern Michigan University, I was fortunate to get to know Tom on a more personal level through his work as the lead member of the Band's Equipment Staff. He approached his work with a tremendous sense of personal pride and was brilliantly capable in this position. Our department reaped the benefit of his altruistic nature and willingness to go "above and beyond" to ensure successful operations, not only on a daily basis, but also for the many outreach programs we conducted for high school students. The professionalism and initiative he showed in this capacity was more akin to that of a colleague.

Tom's passion for both music and teaching is abundantly apparent. He is a person who cares deeply about his subject and his students, both in and out of the classroom. As a former public school band director, I know firsthand how critical this passion and genuine sincerity is for any successful educator. Additionally, Tom's exceptional intrapersonal skills, coupled with his sense of humor, make him well suited to function creatively within a team environment.

Mr. Torrento possesses the professional orientation, personal traits, and caring dedication of an outstanding music educator and professional colleague. I urge you to give him every consideration for this vacancy, and am certain a personal interview will confirm my assertions. If I can be of any further assistance in assessing his candidacy for your position, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary K. Schneider". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Mary K. Schneider
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