



## Van Dyke Public Schools

Office for Curriculum & Instruction

**Piper Bognar**  
Assistant Superintendent

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December 16, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the pleasure of working with Tom Torrento in Van Dyke Public Schools and have been truly impressed. I first met Tom when he was working as a student teacher at Lincoln High School during the 2011-12 school year. He quickly made a positive impression as a passionate, knowledgeable resource for other music educators in the district. I remember thinking that we would be remiss to let him leave at the end of his term with us. Luckily for our district and our students, a full-time position opened up the next fall at our middle school. From the onset, Mr. Torrento's expertise and dedication were evident.

When working with students, Mr. Torrento's passion rushes into his classroom and transfers directly to the students who are in his classes daily. In a middle school, this is not always an easy feat. His students know from the minute they walk in that he expects greatness and that he will teach them how to accomplish great things. His high expectations come with a sense that all students deserve to be a part of a highly lauded group, no matter what the rest of their day may entail. He is able to look at each child from more sides than just the academic one, which helps to strengthen the crucial relationships that lead to ultimate student success. His musical and instructional knowledge base is extensive, and his desire to educate each child with their unique strengths in mind allows a fresh perspective on programming and how things are done. His calm demeanor and logical way of showing students why they, too, should make positive choices make him a strong model for at-risk students and for other teachers in the building. He is seen as a mentor, both formally and informally.

In working with Tom as Assistant Superintendent, I have been able to watch him take initiative on several innovative projects and have witnessed his strengths and talents beyond the classroom. He has achieved success in applying for grants, meticulously spending and keeping track of those grant funds, and presenting logical budget proposals in a time of deficit. Mr. Torrento is always anxious to share with me what has been done with curriculum and instruction organization, which directly benefits his students on a daily basis. His documented attention to detail gives me comfort in his execution of both daily and ancillary duties.

It is without hesitation that I recommend Mr. Tom Torrento. His professionalism and commitment, along with skills and expertise, make him an excellent candidate and an asset to any organization. Tom's overall efficacious manner lends itself naturally to leadership in his building and in the district. His personality and ability to work with others only add to his merit. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Thank you,

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