

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL

22500 Federal

Warren, MI 48089

"We Build Champions for Life!"

Michael Wiltse
Principal
(586) 758-8320



Derek Lawson
Assistant Principal
(586) 758-8323

To the Selection Committee for MTOY,

It is my absolute pleasure to write a letter of recommendation in support of Mr. Thomas Torrento's nomination for the Michigan Teacher of the Year.

I have known Mr. Torrento for 3 years as his teaching colleague at Lincoln Middle School in Warren, MI. During this period of time, I have worked closely with Mr. Torrento on various educational projects and have seen, firsthand, his incredible ability to inspire students at any age level. As his friend and mentor, I am very familiar with the amazing accomplishments Mr. Torrento has already fulfilled.

Mr. Torrento is a highly dedicated professional who knows how to motivate his students to strive for excellence. Our students are inspired to perform at their best due to Mr. Torrento's charisma, genuineness, and high expectations of each student he teaches. He has an incredible passion for incorporating the importance of musicality as a major focal point at the middle school level. Because of this infectious passion, our middle school program has grown immensely. In the time that Mr. Torrento has become our Director of Instrumental Music, he has raised division scores, doubled the size of our band program, and created talented and successful musicians who are truly proud of their musical capabilities.

Perhaps Mr. Torrento's most impressive accomplishment is the positive transformation of a struggling program. Due to the fact that we are an economically challenged district, many of our students do not have the means or the support from home to be involved in extracurricular activities that provide real-world experiences for students of economic struggle. His relentlessness in pursuing opportunities for our students is truly unmatched. He has raised over \$20,000 from grants and the surrounding community. He has just received the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation Grant resulting in \$165,000 for new musical equipment. This incredible accomplishment allowed for the continuation and longevity of our district's musical program. His dedicated approach to music education is a true model of servant leadership.

Mr. Torrento's ambition and dedication are prevalent in the incredible accomplishments that he has already obtained. Therefore, it is my sincere belief that he is extremely qualified to be the recipient of the MTOY.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachelle L. Bierod". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Rachelle L. Bierod