

May 2, 2022

This is a letter of recommendation for Joseph Wright, an applicant for a position in your district.

Joe came to Milford High School just this past fall. In August, I had an introductory meeting with him and was pleased to hear his goals for our school. He seemed genuinely interested in, and excited about, strengthening school culture, evaluating and offering feedback to the teachers in our building, and being a long-term team player. I was impressed with the fact that he moved his family clear across the country to take this job, and was optimistic that he would be able to make a difference here. As we are a school district which has had significant turmoil over the last three years, I was encouraged by Joe's professional goals and his desire to help Milford High School return to the great school it once was.

As the school year began and Mr. Wright began working with our student population, our students seemed to like him very much, which is something that impressed me, given that the majority of his duties here at MHS have turned out to be discipline oriented. Joe is able to relate to the students beyond "just" disciplinary matters, making them feel valued and respected. He is sincerely interested in helping all students, not just the ones crossing his doorstep with a discipline issue.

Joe also looks for opportunities to mentor and connect with students. For instance, I was pleased to see Joe on the dance floor at our February school dance, teaching one of our quiet guys the "Electric Slide". This boy is definitely not one to join a group dance, but there he was, following Joe's footsteps, learning the dance along with the other kids on the dance floor. Another opportunity Joe created for students is our Friday afternoon game club, a popular after school activity with both students and staff.

Joe has worked hard to bring our school together. As I mentioned before, our district and building have had a very difficult three years, with issues pre-dating COVID. Unfortunately, our long term vice principal left right before the school year, and a newly hired vice principal left in October, so Joe was the only one remaining. This meant that for about five months, the majority of discipline responsibilities, Canvas support, and AP planning/ testing duties were left to Joe, in addition to his department supervisory duties and admin team duties. Despite shouldering these additional and great responsibilities, Joe was definitely making a difference at our school, and I'm sorry to lose him.

One thing I appreciated about Joe as an administrator is his approach to the teacher evaluation process. Joe is truly interested in learning about the teacher and his/her class, and providing valuable feedback as a result of the observation. For my observation, Joe requested a pre-observation meeting, and I was able to preview the class, curriculum, and materials I'd be using that day, in addition to filling him on specific class or student issues that may arise or needed recommendations. Post-observation, we met again to go over his written evaluation. I found the process to be valuable and enjoyed the collaborative nature of the evaluation.

Joe has my firm and enthusiastic recommendation for any administrative position for which he may apply. Any school would be lucky to have him!

Sincerely,



Jennifer K. Erdody

Vocal Music Teacher, Milford High School

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