To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the privilege of having Joseph Weseloh work with me as my student teacher at Lincoln Elementary in Watertown, SD. I teach elementary music to Kindergarten, First grade, Fourth grade, Fifth grade, and Sixth grade.

I have observed Joseph to be very responsible, respectful, and he has shown himself to be dedicated to the profession of teaching. As soon as Joseph began his time in my classroom he enthusiastically started working with the students. He has always been prepared with every lesson he has taught and has attended every commitment he accepted. Joseph has a great relationship with the students. He has always shown the proper amount of camaraderie with the students in that his discipline is appropriate and the students still understand he cares about them. Joseph also has an infectious excitement about teaching music. He desires the students he works with to develop a true appreciation for the subject he is sharing with them.

Working with a student teacher can prove to be a challenge. I can honestly say it has been my privilege to have Joseph student teaching with me. One of the things that has encouraged me the most is his desire to learn. He asks questions sincerely and shows genuine interest in what the answer may be. He observes everything happening around him and uses it at motivation for what he is doing. He is honest in his approach with me as a co~teacher and also as a teacher with students. I believe his desire to learn will be a life long passion for him and in the field of education that is an honorable trait.

A specific example I have seen in Joseph is the passion he has when he brings his personal world instruments into the classroom. With our fourth grade class he has to this date shared his violin, his boudran, his tin whistle, and his djembe. He has used these to demonstrate the genres of bluegrass, celtic, and country music with the students. He demonstrates the instruments for them proficiently and then allows the students to play in some fashion using our classroom instruments. Examples of students playing the instruments are using hand drums for the djembe, and recorders for the tin whistle.

It has been an enjoyable experience having Joseph in my classroom. It would be an honor to work with him as a colleague if I had the opportunity. I know that he will be a great asset to the field of music education.

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Ingalls

Lincoln Elementary Music

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