



FROM THE DESK OF: KEITH A. BUSHMAN

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with mixed emotion that I write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Nathan Wubbena. I have worked with Nathan for the last 3 years at Riverside Middle School in the Garfield RE-2 School District. He teaches 5th and 6th grade choir at Riverside. As the 7th and 8th choir teacher, I see the quality of musicianship improve every year. Each year the students learn more and more and it makes my job at the 7th and 8th grade level much easier. The students come in with a lot more confidence in their musical ability and willingness to try new things. It is truly a joy to receive his students.

I've also watched the choir program at Coal Ridge High School grow throughout Nathan's time, commitment, and dedication there. Again, the quality of the music program has been enriched by his presence. He conducts three choirs there: Varsity Choir, Women's Choir, and Men's Choir. Nathan started the Men's Choir last year and this year it has almost doubled. This shows that he's not afraid start something from scratch and work with what he has to build something. The men are proud to be in choir, when it used to be an uncool thing to do. Nathan has built a sense of pride in male singers, and I can see it starting to trickle down to the Middle School. My number of male singers has increased over the last two years since he's been bringing his Men's Choir over to present to the middle school students.

Nathan is a wonderful collaborator with a lot of new teaching ideas. It has been wonderful to get some new fresh ideas to incorporate into my classroom. He is always willing to share ideas with me, and if he doesn't have an idea at that moment, he'll come back the next day with something that he either came up with or asked around to get.

Other than growing and maintaining strong programs at the middle school and high school, Nathan has started a musical program, which includes kids from 7th grade through high school. The high school does not have an appropriate facility to put on a musical, so he has had to coordinate with the middle school to put on successful musicals. He thinks ahead and sees logistical problems before they happen. It truly is amazing to see what he accomplishes with limited resources.

Not only is Nathan involved in Riverside Middle School and Coal Ridge High School, he has been actively involved as a member of the first Colorado Middle School All State Choir Board (District 8 Governor) and promotes the choir avidly within our district. He regularly attends ACDA and CMEA conferences, and brings back a wealth of knowledge from the conferences. He writes his own arrangements for his ensembles, organizes festivals for all grade levels from middle school to high school and performs in the local theatre group. Through his performances, Nathan inspires many up and coming musicians, as well as myself as an educator.

Most recently, Mr. Wubbena has been nominated and awarded the Outstanding Young Music Educator Award for the state of Colorado. This award not only shows that he is seen as a value within our community and school district, but his achievements and work ethic is acknowledged at a state level as well.

With all said and done, please consider Mr. Nathan Wubbena of Riverside Middle School and Coal Ridge High School as a strong candidate for the music position within your school. We will be sad to see him go; however, your program will benefit from his presence. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,
Keith A. Bushman

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