

To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Nathan Wubbena, the choral director at Coal Ridge High School, for the Outstanding Young Music Educator award. Mr. Wubbena has been my choir director for the past 2 years. However, I am a Senior at Coal Ridge; therefore, I have had multiple choir directors throughout my high school career. Before he arrived, our choral program was struggling to achieve high scores at competitions and our program was slowly decreasing due to the lack of ability we had to create a stable choir program. Mr. Wubbena arrived my sophomore year of high school and since then our choral program has improved immensely, and tripled in size.

Coal Ridge used to offer two different choirs: Varsity choir, or concert choir. Mr. Wubbena expanded our choral program by offering Varsity Choir, Women's Choir, and Men's Choir. He witnessed our struggle as a choral program and put all of his time and effort into the growth and improvement of our choir. Last year, we won sweepstakes at competition for the first time in 2 years. His dedication and positivity boosted the confidence and the devotion of the Coal Ridge choirs to reach a new level of achievement. He has always encouraged myself and others to participate in honor choirs and challenge ourselves to do the best that we can. He takes time in the morning, during lunch, and after school to schedule times to work with those participating in honor choirs. He also helps with sight singing and intervals during lunch for anyone in choir who would like to practice them.

Mr. Wubbena is always happy to help whenever he can, and he never says anything degrading or negative. He has a big smiley face flag in the back of our choir room because he said he believes that a positive attitude changes everything. Mr. Wubbena has something positive to say to our choir everyday in class, whether it's just a simple "Good job on that section altos," or "Wow! you guys rocked that song!" Everytime I doubt myself, he is always there to say "I know you can do it." In addition, not only does he work with our choir on an educational level, but he works with us on a personal level as well. He hosts Christmas parties for the choir and takes us caroling every Christmas so that we can all spend time together outside of choir class. He attends all of our year-round choir parties and even put on a choir banquet for us this past year. He is always seeking new opportunities for us as a choir. Every year we also perform at the elementary schools and the church so that we can share our love for music with the community.

Mr. Wubbena's dedication, positive attitude, and commitment to the Coal Ridge High School choir program exceeds the expectations of a choir director and prove that he is the perfect fit for the Outstanding Young Music Educator award.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Disher