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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation to support Nathan Wubbena. Mr. Wubbena has been my choir director for the last two years and I continue to study beneath him this year. Not only has he pushed us as a choir to reach for the next level and to build our vowel color and blend as well as our range and strength, he has built me up as an individual. Before this stretch with Mr. Wubbena and a brief stint with Mrs. Wubbena, my conductor helped us as a choir and built amazing relationships with most of us, but Nathan Wubbena has done more in the last two years to help me find my voice and confidence than she did in four years. Those who have the honor of studying under Mr. Wubbena would agree his skill level is something to be respected and the time and effort he puts into us students and our voices is commendable.

As the conductor of three very different choirs here at Coal Ridge as well as choirs at Riverside Middle School, Mr. Wubbena definitely has his hands full, but he never lets that show through when it comes to the quality of work he puts into each choir and the quality of time that he gives to us students. His heart is big and you can see that every day when he comes in early to work with soloists, sections, and groups that want more help, teaches for three hours, gives up an hour and half to work through both lunch periods so that no student is left out, travels to the middle school to teach, and then commutes back to the high school to provide us with even more face time.

If the hours within the school week were not enough, Mr. Wubbena also attends every family bonding event that we as a choir put on as well as every competition and/or audition that we as a choir or as soloists attend. It is those really early trips in the Short Bus with Mr. Wubbena behind the wheel on our way to auditions that show his true character. Choir Director is actually not the only hat that Nathan Wubbena has in his repertoire. As the brain behind the madness that is theatre, Mr. Wubbena constructed a theatre program in our school just last year and quite successfully arranged The Sound of Music. That means a ton more hours, but Mr. Wubbena never once missed an after school practice let alone an all-day Friday build day. Now with all of this on the plate, most people would push back from the table and call it good, but not Nathan Wubbena. Over the summer months Mr. Wubbena spends his time arranging music for us and even developing nifty videos of himself singing every part of the composition so that if and when we are at home practicing we have him right there, on YouTube.

Let's go back to the award at hand here: Outstanding Young Music Educator. This man has touched my life in a way that no other individual has because he took my enjoyment of singing and worked with it for hours and hours until it became a need to be a part of the music community and scene. He has set me up with a local college professor so that when I graduate and have to move on from Varsity Choir, I am already set up with a connection in the larger pond that is University Life. But enough about me, I am not his only student and this is my final year at Coal Ridge. Luckily for the current and future students of Coal Ridge, Nathan Wubbena has chosen to teach at this small school. Last year we won Sweeps at a prestigious competition and we gained a theatre program that will only grow and thrive with time and Mr. Wubbena at the helm. When the administration asked why music was important during Music Appreciation Week, Nathan Wubbena spoke up, as if he had studied long and hard about the matter, with a TED study that has shown the academic benefits of playing and instrument and singing. Many asked if he did search the corners of the internet for this great video, but the answer is that he was introduced to the video at a conference over the summer. This man eats, breathes, and lives his profession and I have every confidence in his ability to meet the requirements for Outstanding Young Music Educator. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Shelby Cerise