

June 3, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

Working under Dr. Jerrod H. Wheeler has been nothing short of an honor and a privilege. Upon entering Espy Elementary I sensed the warmth and family like atmosphere. I immediately felt as if I was part of the team. After working under Dr. Wheeler for three years that warmth and family like atmosphere have held true. I have heard many new teachers mention how welcoming and friendly our building is. Dr. Wheeler not only creates a sense of community among his staff, students, and parents; he also creates an environment where teachers can teach and students can learn.

Dr. Wheeler goes above and beyond everyday to make sure that students feel safe, respected, and happy. He shows this on a regular basis, but it is especially apparent on special occasions. He deemed our school as an "All-American School" for the 2008-2009 year complete with a first-day kickoff including the landing of an Army Huey helicopter on our playground while officers of the Armed Forces arrived in humvee's to greet our students and answer their questions. Prior to MAP testing (Missouri standardized testing), Dr. Wheeler planned exciting, motivational events. One year we had a Hollywood movie premier where students and teachers dressed like movie stars. The next year, we "partied like rock stars," dressing as rock stars and having our own rock concert. Always inviting the media, Dr. Wheeler made sure our students had a large presence in the community. While Dr. Wheeler was great at planning the BIG events he also made sure that teaching and learning were the most important aspects of school. With Espy Elementary leading the district in attendance five years in a row, it is apparent that it is a place where the staff and students wanted to be.

Dr. Wheeler was often seen walking around the building visiting classrooms, students, and teachers. When he wasn't out in the school his office door was always open. Students, teachers, and parents alike felt comfortable with Dr. Wheeler. For teachers he was always open to comments, questions, suggestions, or just to talk. It is no doubt that Dr. Wheeler led our school to a 2009 Missouri Gold Star award and a nomination for the National Blue Ribbon Award. We are proud to have had him as a principal and will miss him dearly. Dr. Wheeler will be an asset to any school district. He is a forward thinker, a passionate principal, and a leader. If you have any questions please contact me at (417) 576-0717, [jrubes98@aol.com](mailto:jrubes98@aol.com), or [jennyruble@nixaschools.net](mailto:jennyruble@nixaschools.net)

Sincerely,

Jennifer E. Ruble

Third Grade Teacher

George Espy Elementary