

# School District of Athens

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March 9, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

**RE: Reference Letter for “Amalia’s Hope” Presentation**

On February 16, 2017, Brigitte Henschel, representing Amalia’s Hope, presented to our high school students of Athens High School. As superintendent of the district, I appreciated my principal, Juli Gauerke, who arranged for Mrs. Henschel to present to our students, for inviting me to attend the presentation.

Following the presentation, I came away with a profound awareness and emotional feelings relating to this family’s trials, tribulations, and grief with their daughter’s use and abuse of drugs and subsequent death at such a young age. In my 34 years in public education as a teacher, principal, and superintendent, I had never previously heard as powerful a message for students so that students make better choices in their lives, what the effects of drugs and abuse affect this family’s daughter in life and death, and the long-term, emotional distress of a family mourning such a loss.

Brigitte, as Amalia’s mother, spoke from the heart. In her presentation, bringing out Amalia’s ashes made a tremendous impact and final reminder that death is final. The associated PowerPoint presentation engaged the visual aspects of Amalia’s life in order to recognize the value of life and all its riches. We learned so much about this young lady who will forever be young in our image but would not have the opportunity to live a full life as we all would expect.

Without reservation, I would invite any high school to bring to your students the presentation of “Amalia’s Hope”. Even after a month has gone by since we hosted this presentation, many of our high school students still connect with Mrs. Henschel through Facebook about their lives in general. We believe that all young people should have a respected adult to connect with in order that even the death of one life can be prevented.

Feel free to contact me for additional information.

Sincerely yours,



Timothy A. Micke  
Superintendent

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