

To Whom It May Concern:

I am compelled to write this letter of recommendation for my principal Dr. Jerrod Wheeler. I have had the honor of teaching third grade under the direction and leadership of Dr. Wheeler for the past three years at Espy Elementary in Nixa, Missouri.

Dr. Wheeler has been a huge asset to our building, district and community. As a principal, Jerrod has been an example and the basis for all future comparison. He has been professional, honest, our biggest cheer leader and the push we needed to achieve our goals. Under his watch Espy has had the highest attendance in the district for several years, we have worked for MAP scores that lead us to the honor of being a Gold Star School with a nomination for Blue Ribbon. Though his good qualities are numerous, there is one that I find rare in our society and administration. Dr. Wheeler genuinely cares about the staff, students and the community and is a pillar of strength in times of great difficulty. I've chosen to use this opportunity to share just a few examples of how his kind heart can make all the difference.

In my first year here, we encountered a terrible tornado that left several of our families homeless. Dr. Wheeler headed up efforts by the staff to clean up the affected areas and help the families by putting together a Chili Dinner to raise funds for families that had been devastated by the storms. The community came out in mass to show their support with Dr. Wheeler leading the way.

In each of the three years of my employment with the Nixa School District, we have had the misfortune of students suffering from serious illness. In my first year we were struck with the terrifying news that one of our first grade students was diagnosed with Leukemia. My second year we were blessed with the attendance of a kindergartner living with Epidermolysis Bullosa, and just this past year one of our third grade students fell mysteriously ill with what was later diagnosed as Gillian Barre.

Dr. Wheeler stepped in on all three counts and offered his assistance in any way he could. Dr. Wheeler fought in tough economic times for the little boy suffering from Leukemia to be provided a para-professional in the classroom. The kindergarten teacher of the child with Epidermolysis Bullosa was provided with a webcam to allow the students to continue interacting with the little boy via the internet from the classroom. This also provided an opportunity to keep him caught up with school lessons while hospitalized. In the case of the little girl with Gillian Barre, Dr. Wheeler kept in communication with the family throughout this trying time, and accommodations were made to assist her in making a smooth transition into the classroom after school had already begun.

I hope that someday I will again have the fortune of working for an administrator who makes a difference in the lives of so many fortunate people.

Sincerely,

Brandy Summers