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To Whom It May Concern:

During the past five years, I have served as the librarian at Espy Elementary School in Nixa, Missouri. Dr. Jerrod Wheeler arrived as principal the same year I started. During this time, I have been truly impressed with the comprehensive qualities he has exhibited as a leader, team builder, and problem solver. Dr. Wheeler's dedication to his students, faculty, and school community far exceed the expectations set forth for a school principal.

An instantly likable individual, I have come to know Jerrod rather well over the past few years, and my respect for him has grown. I worked closely with him to build a new library at Espy Elementary School. He was instrumental in overseeing the project from start to completion with a spectacular result that I invite you to see. His eye for detail and acceptance of only the best for our building is quite evident. His negotiation skills were clearly displayed throughout the building process as we worked with architects, designers, and contractors. The end result was a tailor-made facility for our students and school community that embraces the importance and love of reading. Dr. Wheeler displays a rare ability to understand the inner workings of a school library. His dedication, work ethic, and can do attitude is illustrated in his completion of a 15 foot, wooden T-Rex model that he completed one piece at a time with wood glue and countless L-brackets and is currently on display in the library.

As I witnessed Dr. Wheeler's interactions with students, parents, and teachers, I am very impressed with his natural ability to hear all sides of an issue before reaching decisions. He continually strives to establish teamwork among all members of the school community. The interdependences that he has developed are a result of his magnetic personality that draws individuals to him and motivates individuals to reach their full potential. Dr. Wheeler displays a spectacular work ethic, high level of optimism, positive attitude, and excellent writing skills. He was instrumental in Espy Elementary receiving the Gold Star Award in 2009 and potentially a Blue Ribbon Award this September.

Dr. Wheeler has devoted his life to the education of children as evidenced by the early acquisition of his educational doctorate and subsequent nine years of service in the field of education. He is an innovator that also values the fundamentals in education. This is displayed by both his skills and belief in technology, as evidenced by all classrooms at Espy being Smart classrooms, but also by the understanding and value he holds for the basics of reading, writing, and mathematics for all students.

As you seek a leader with a genuine passion for excellence, look no further. Dr. Wheeler is a very deserving candidate. Having compared him to many outstanding individuals with whom I have worked, I believe you will have made the right choice in selecting him for any position. I recommend him highly and without reservation. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gann

Espy Elementary Librarian
Nixa, Missouri