

May 5, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in regards to Jeffry Steele. In January of this year (2010) my mother passed away in Texas. I had to leave suddenly and was gone for app. 2 weeks. I felt very uneasy about leaving my choirs in the hands of a substitute teacher. Junior High choirs can be very difficult! They are generally distrusting of a new teacher and some kids make it their mission to make the substitute's life as difficult as possible. I had not met Jeffry, but had talked to him on the phone on several occasions. I was initially impressed by how seriously he was taking the assignment. He wanted to see all of the music that my choirs were working on and it was obvious to me that he was studying the music in order to be as prepared as possible. While I was away, we talked on the phone several times, as he had questions and wanted my feedback on how to handle certain issues. This also impressed me, as it was evidence of his strong work ethic and commitment to making his time with my kids a positive learning experience.

Jeffry had also co-written and arranged a fabulous song for choirs which he taught both of my choirs. When I came back, the kids were very enthusiastic about learning this new song. I was so impressed, that we ended up performing this piece at our next concert. Jeffry took the time to come and play his guitar with us on his song.

Many times choirs end up watching a video when they have a substitute teacher. Not so with Jeffry. My kids did music theory (working beyond what I had taught them), ear training, learned new (and very cool) warm-ups and made significant progress on their literature for the upcoming concert. I felt that no time was wasted when Mr. Steele was in front of my choirs!

At the elementary level, he did very creative and fun things with my classes. They worked on rhythms, learned warm-ups for singing, learned many new songs and in general had a great time! They even made a recording for me to listen to when I returned.

I would highly recommend Jeffry for any teaching position. The school that is lucky enough to have him will be blessed with his talent, experience and dedication to outstanding music education.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Anders

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