
**ROBERT L. FORD K-8
NASA EXPLORER SCHOOL**



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Lynn, MA 01902

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Dr. Claire Crane ~ Principal

Mrs. Barbara Kelly ~ Vice Principal

September 25, 2008

To Whom It May Concern,

Jeffry Steele is beginning his third year as Choral Artist at the Ford School, as part of the Metropolitan Opera Guild's *Urban Voices Choral Initiative*. His experience and success with our students here would have me recommend him without reservation for full-time work in the Lynn schools. Students looked forward to their *Urban Voices* class each week and worked hard to improve their singing under his direction. Not only did his six classes perform admirably for the school community at year's end, but gave impromptu performances throughout the year for classrooms not participating in the program. He speaks Spanish, and has taught songs here in Spanish, Khmer, French and African languages. Of course, the majority of songs have been in English, and we have appreciated his choice of appealing repertoire that enhances children's language acquisition as well as musical skills. That he is a professional classical guitarist has been an added bonus, allowing him to accompany students (though he did hire a pianist to accompany a few numbers on the concert) while moving about the room to evaluate individual voices. The promise of a solo guitar performance at the end of class -- conditional upon a productive rehearsal -- was a good motivator. He would also burn CDs that allowed classroom teachers to reinforce the learning of songs.

Jeffry proved to be easy-going, reliable and positive -- responsive to administrative needs as well as those of the students. Feel free to contact me with questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Claire Crane
Principal