

## Reference Letter for Jessica Wells

Jessica Wells is a top-notch young lady. In our search to find someone to teach both vocal and instrumental music we had the honor to consider many quality candidates. Jessica was a great 'fit' for the middle school and was selected to join our education team. Jessica has invested herself in our school environment and is respected by students, parents, and our staff. From watching Jessica teach and interact with her students she demonstrates that she is an 'experienced' first year teacher. During the interview process it was evident that she was an ideal fit for the middle school. Jessica is personable, caring, conscientious, and demonstrates an admirable work ethic. We are honored that she is a member of our staff and welcome the contributions that she makes to our school.

It was evident when Jessica interviewed with us that she was someone who has a passion for music and sharing her ability to teach through supporting students learning how to play an instrument was something that she took seriously. Although her current teaching responsibilities include teaching vocal music (choir) and instrumental music, her preference and area of expertise is with instrumental music.

Jessica relates well with all students. Her personality is characterized by being soft-spoken almost in a deceiving way as it does not mirror her ability to command a classroom. Jessica has high expectations for all who enter her class and she holds the students accountable to high standards of musicianship. Our school district embraces the Gradual Release of Instruction strategy for teachers to use in their classrooms. Jessica has demonstrated on multiple occasions that she is able to demonstrate focus lessons, guided instruction, and collaborative learning activities. She is a natural in supporting the students through her instruction.

Jessica teaches instrumental lessons to the majority of the first year (5<sup>th</sup>) grade students as well as 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> graders. She also guides the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band and is a co-conductor of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band. Choral responsibilities include the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choirs. Jessica works with her team of choral -3 and instrumental -4 staff members as they coordinated district choral concert hosting elementary, middle, and high school choirs.

Jessica took on the unique choir/instrumental music position knowing that we were going to implement a few new things this school year. One of which was the inclusion of 6<sup>th</sup> grade band in the school day. Jessica's patience and tenacity supported her through the trials and tribulations of this implementation. Despite some of the frustrations she was able to adapt by providing suggestions on how to improve the situation to benefit the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and their instrumental music time.

I highly recommend that you grant Ms. Jessica Wells an interview so she can share how she would benefit your instrumental program. I have been impressed with Jessica since her hiring and advocate for her continued growth as an educator.

From my experience as an educator and administrator Jessica Wells possesses qualities to be a top-notch educator. Ms. Wells demonstrates the desire and dedication that will promote her continued growth and maturation as an educator and leader within your school environment. Jessica Wells is very worthy of joining your education team. Your school and students will benefit from what she brings to your program and learning environment.

Respectfully,

Mr. Dan Boyd, Principal  
Lyons Middle School  
2819 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Clinton, Iowa 52732  
563.242.7858 ext. 1072