



FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Daniel Helm, Twain Bands
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To Whom It May Concern,

I had the pleasure of working with Matthew Kryztopik from August 2018 to October 2018 as he completed his secondary level student teaching experience at Mark Twain Middle School in Fairfax County, Virginia. During this time, Mr. Kryztopik demonstrated many qualities of an exemplary band teacher. His professionalism is noteworthy. His demeanor is consistently composed during times of urgency as well as times ease. He has a strength of character and judgement that is admirable and will suit him well as a teacher and as a leader. He is a tireless worker, actively and fearlessly developing his skills in every area of the band teaching profession, from well-executed lessons to instrument repair to organization of forms and supplies. His musical skills are the best of any student teacher I have had, and he is consistently able to apply them to lessons. In the classroom, he can customize his well-developed lessons to the needs of each student and make alterations as they are needed. His diagnostic skills reveal the insight of a veteran teacher, likely due to his previous work with high school marching bands, and like a professional, he constantly questions his skills and builds upon areas in need of development. Mr. Kryztopik's rapport with students is also praiseworthy. He earns their respect and admiration and brings life and joy to the classroom. After several weeks, the students still speak fondly of him.

I am confident that you will find Matthew Kryztopik to be an outstanding band teacher, team member and consummate professional. I believe he will be a good fit in a wide range of environments and he is certainly worthy of your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Helm
Band Director
Mark Twain Middle School
Alexandria, Virginia