

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is being written in support of Dr. Jerrod H. Wheeler as a leader in the Missouri public school setting. It is a pleasure to write this letter for such a dedicated educator, administrator, and colleague.

I came to know Dr. Wheeler during the selection process, as I submitted my application to join the West Platte School District. At the time, I had served as an elementary principal in the neighboring Platte County School District for over a decade; yet, the new direction of the West Platte School District caught my attention. Although Dr. Wheeler was in his first year as Superintendent of West Platte, there was much talk about the changes, direction, opportunity, and potential for uncommon student outcomes which were formulating in the District.

During my interview process, I was immediately impressed by the energy, optimism, and excitement Dr. Wheeler demonstrated in regard to his vision and described direction of the West Platte School District. There was no hesitation in his words when he defined his efforts to recruit, attract, develop and retain only exceptional educators to embody the West Platte team. Clearly, he assumed the role of head coach, cheerleader, and champion for the West Platte School District. His efforts paid off, and I was convinced West Platte was the right place for me. Fortunately, I was selected to join the team as Elementary Principal.

At the time of my hiring, West Platte had recently offered a retirement incentive plan. Along with natural attrition, this plan resulted in a turnover of nearly 50% of the elementary staff. Due to the late timing of my hire, Dr. Wheeler was tasked and had already completed the selection process for the new members of my staff. Understandably, I was somewhat apprehensive and anxious to observe not only those veteran teachers of the District, but especially the newly hired teammates. As I write this letter a year and a half later, I can say unequivocally that Jerrod did an exceptional job of assembling an extraordinary team. During my short time in the District, great strides of progress have been made across our academic program and that progress can be attributed in large part to the characteristics, mindset, and dedication of the team which Dr. Wheeler retained and recruited.

Also noteworthy are the changes made to our academic program under the direction of Dr. Wheeler. Elementary Computers K-6, Elementary Spanish K-6, a full-day preschool program, a 1:1 student tablet program K-6, and a school wide CharacterPlus Character Education Program were all accomplished during his 2 years in the District. Further, Dr. Wheeler implemented a week-long summer professional development institute and an imbedded two-year-long eMINTS technology professional development program in which 100% of elementary classroom teachers voluntarily enrolled to pursue eMINTS certification. Dr. Wheeler also demonstrated his commitment to resources, as he approved the purchase and implementation of a new K-6 Reading series, a new Build Your Own Curriculum Software, and multiple other instructional resources. Congruently, Dr. Wheeler led a comprehensive technology overhaul, which encompassed everything from infrastructure and bandwidth to Smart Boards, Teacher Tablets, and Document Projectors

for every teacher. While providing support and leadership for countless overarching initiatives, Dr. Wheeler also found time to help design, deliver, and hang character education banners throughout our hallways to help kickoff our character education program. He was present in our building nearly every day, to check in for updates and offer his support to our team and me.

If you seek an innovative, dedicated, creative, and hands-on educator to champion your team and lead your district to new levels of success, look no further. Dr. Wheeler has demonstrated a bold commitment to excellence for all students! If I may be of further assistance in providing additional information about Dr. Wheeler which may help in your selection process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Henshaw  
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