



WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
589 HOSPITAL DRIVE, SUITE A
WARREN PA 16365-4885

BRANDON L. HUFNAGEL
SUPERINTENDENT

February 1, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Christopher Lyons. He has become an integral part of the music education faculty in his first year in the Warren County School District. As the Director that oversees Curriculum and Instruction for the District, I have had interactions with Mr. Lyons in both curricular and extra-curricular activities and have always been impressed with his dedication to student success and his professionalism.

When Mr. Lyons was hired, he was handed a difficult assignment which was split between two buildings. One part of his assignment is in an early childhood program for grades K and 1. The early childhood assignment requires teaching general music and being responsible for the introduction of formal music instruction for nearly half of the students in our District. I have had the opportunity to observe Mr. Lyons in that realm and appreciated his interaction with students, his enthusiasm and his careful planning which allows him to incorporate academic skills with his music instruction.

In the second part of his assignment, Mr. Lyons inherited a struggling instrumental music program for grades 6-12 in a small high school building. In that difficult position, he demonstrated a lot of creativity by working with steel drums to interest students, establishing a Winter Guard program to recruit students and forming a pep band when there were not enough students to maintain a quality marching band program.

The response that Mr. Lyons has made to these two very different assignments has demonstrated to me that he is an analytical and creative problem solver. His love for music is apparent to anyone who has the opportunity to watch him teach and that love of his subject is contagious to his students. He is not afraid to ask questions about how to get better and is constantly striving to improve himself and the program that he offers to students.

More than anything else, Mr. Lyons cares about the students that he serves. He speaks on their behalf, works to build pride in themselves and their school. He makes the effort to really know them as individuals and helps them to connect with other students and their communities. At all times, he is an advocate for student success.

It is without reservation that I recommend to you Mr. Christopher Lyons. He is an educator with whom I am proud to have worked. If I can offer further clarification or additional information, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Amanda E. Hetrick
Director of Secondary Education