

PURCHASE LINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

16559 Route 286 Hwy E

P.O. Box 374, Commodore, PA 15729-0374

District Office (724) 254-4312
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High School (724) 254-4312
Fax (724) 254-2306

North Elementary (814) 277-6602
(814) 845-7600
Fax (814) 277-8833
South Elementary (724) 254-4312
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Dr. Richard C. Makin, Superintendent

April 22, 2009

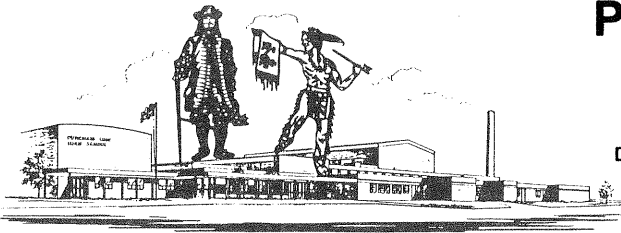
This letter is in support of Mr. Christopher J. Lyons. I have had the extreme pleasure of working with Mr. Lyons while he completed his student teaching at the Purchase Line Elementary Schools. It is my honor to be writing this letter in support of such a talented and dedicated future music educator.

Mr. Lyons displays many strengths within the music classroom. His strengths were noticeable from his first day of teaching and continued to mature. He is very well organized, extremely knowledgeable about music, caring and understanding with his students, and most of all exhibits a genuine love for teaching. My students have a wonderful rapport with him and showed sincere enjoyment while working with him. The students were enthusiastic about the lessons he performed with them and often did not want to leave class.

Mr. Lyons takes constructive criticism very well. We were able to dialogue about a lot of things about philosophy of education. We talked about teaching style, discipline, adaptations, and many other aspects of the classroom environment. He always listened to my suggestions about how he could improve and applied them appropriately to his individual teaching style. He was willing to try new ideas and showed interest in seeing another's point of view. At the same time, he is self-reflective and often evaluates his personal performance making adjustments when appropriate.

Mr. Lyons continuously went beyond what was expected of him in the classroom. He was very active in after-school activities and rehearsals. He helped to organize and chaperone a second grade field trip to attend a performance of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and also aided in rehearsal and preparation for an elementary music festival. Not only did he attend the festival, but he also applied his own percussion skills, accompanying the chorus on the conga drums in the final performance.

Mr. Lyons' greatest teaching asset is his genuine appreciation for his students. He shows them respect and the students enjoyed working with him. He was able to converse with the students on their level while teaching them effectively. He is very personable and exhibited his own interest in music, which helped to foster their love for the subject as well. He is very focused and makes sure to always accomplish the tasks of the lesson, but makes sure the students are having an enjoyable experience while learning.



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Mr. Lyons is able to work well with all other members of the school community. He was able to communicate with other faculty and staff within the school environment in an appropriate manner. He was flexible in scheduling with other teachers and activities happening within the school, while maintaining the importance of the music program. He was also able to interact with parents and administration in an appropriate manner.

I found that it was a great honor to work with Mr. Lyons. I sincerely find it my privilege to recommend him for any musical endeavor he wishes to pursue. Anyone that would not include him for anything he wishes to accomplish would be doing themselves a great disservice.

It would be my pleasure to answer any questions about Mr. Lyons' student teaching experience at the Purchase Line Elementary Schools. Please feel free to contact me at work at (724) 254-4312 ext. 5703 or home at (724) 349-1869. I can also be reached via email at leem@plsd.k12.pa.us.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Meriann Lee

Mrs. Meriann Lee
Elementary Music Teacher and Choral Director
Purchase Line School District