

Jenison High School Choirs

Building Life Skills Through Choral Music Excellence

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To Whom it May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend to you Bethany Beelen, a bright and creative young music educator. I, along with Dr. Robert Oster, had the opportunity to help mentor Bethany during her internship at Jenison High School in the Fall of 2008. I found her to be pleasant and willing to do any and all tasks assigned to her. Some of Bethany's strongest points are:

Bethany is professional. She dresses and acts professionally at all times and in a variety of situations, whether it be working with students, conferring with parents or dealing with staff and administration. She is poised, confident and articulate, both in speech and prose.

Bethany is a leader. She possesses very good class management skills and has high expectations of her students. She was provided with many opportunities to do the day-to-day tasks of rehearsing repertoire and teaching musical concepts, as well as delivering background on a piece of music from the Jewish tradition. Her lessons were engaging, fast-paced and fun. Students enjoyed working with Bethany, and saw their skills develop accordingly.

Bethany is a fine musician. She has excellent singing, sight-singing and aural skills. Her conducting was as fine as any student-intern I have experienced in recent years. Her rehearsal technique was advanced too: She was able to diagnose and prescribe solutions to a myriad of issues, whether it be in relation to tone, intonation, vocal technique, blend or balance. Many interns don't readily even *hear* these issues, yet Bethany was able to detect and quickly fix many of them.

Having been in Korea the past year likely has broadened Bethany's world-view. I know she eagerly and readily accepted the challenge of teaching in Seoul, and I'm sure she has many wonderful experiences from her time there - all of which can enrich her classroom.

Should you have questions or desire further information, please feel free to contact me. I believe Bethany would be a fine addition to any high school music faculty, and certainly possesses a bright future!



Les Rowsey, Choral Director
Jenison High School

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