

THAINE CAMPBELL

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April 25, 2012

Band Director Search Committee

Dear Search Committee,

It is my privilege to write this letter of recommendation to you on behalf of Mr. John Gardner. I have known John since he moved to Huntington with his family when his boys were in middle school. John had been a band director in southern Indiana for a period of time and was beginning a new stage of his life as a fund raiser to help band directors raise the funds necessary to keep their programs viable. As the high school band director at the time, I was always looking for ways to raise funds and find people to work with the band through marching and solo/ensemble work as well. John filled both of these criteria very well, as he came in and got to know our program and we got to know him, we had him helping with the summer Band Camps, teaching clarinet lessons and critiquing the band for contest. When John's boys reached the high school age, he was already working with our band as the fund raiser, consultant and later as the Band Parent Organization President. During that time, he was responsible for raising funds for new uniforms for the band.

Over the years, John and I have worked together on several projects with the band and also in the community with the Erie Band (Community Band) here in Huntington. John and his wife Joan are also part of the Huntington University Symphonic Band. John has always worked for the good of music and bands in our community as well as helping through his connections with fund raising to help other band programs in the northern Indiana area.

Later on, when my assistant director moved to Huntington University about 7 years ago, John joined me at Huntington North High School as the assistant band director. However, the position at that time was only to be a part time staff. This limited the pay for John, but did not limit his enthusiasm for the position. He joined right in as if he were a full time employee of the school. There were times that I had to remind him that he was not being fully compensated for his extra time spent on projects, etc. His response was that he was just trying to help provide the best educational environment that we could for our students. John worked with me at the high school until I retired a couple of years ago. In that transition, the school board took the roll of looking to seniority within the corporation for a replacement rather than letting Mr. Gardner take the leadership role. Since then, John has continued to work for the best educational environment possible for the students of Huntington North

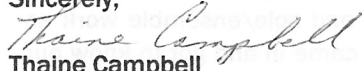
High School.

John Gardner was a great help when we would need to prepare a newsletter, or draft some communication to the students and parents of the band. He was a great technology person and would lead me along with updating things on the computers and was even giving private lessons on clarinet to a student at Caston High School by Skype. When our school decided we needed to work on a writing initiative for everyone, John was great at preparing the students and me, regarding how to put thoughts together on paper and make it a great presentation. As we were looking for ways to continue our communications with students and parents, John started a Band webpage for calendars and announcements. This was a great help to get the word out about upcoming events and schedules. He continues that process today and even incorporates more things with the web and computers for the students and parents of the Huntington Bands.

I would highly recommend John Gardner for your position of Director of Bands. His dedication to music education and to the students has been a real asset to his professional development. Mr. John Gardner has worked hard to keep the programs that he is involved with running at their top performance level.

If there are other questions that I can help to answer concerning Mr. John Gardner, please feel free to contact me at any time. Again, it is my pleasure to make this recommendation for John Gardner to your, Director of Bands search committee.

Sincerely,



Thaine Campbell

Retired band director, Huntington North High School
Huntington, Indiana