



February, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

Rebecca Raber has asked me to write a recommendation, and I am delighted to do so. I have had the privilege of being her colleague the past ten years here at Shanley High School. We have worked closely on various school projects, committees, and endeavors with a particular focus on liturgical and devotional music. I have seen the positive influence she has made on hundreds and hundreds of students, including my own son and daughter. Indeed, she has made a profound difference for the good in our school and broader community through the beauty and grace of her knowledge of and passion for music. She is simply a phenomenal teacher.

Rebecca has vast and deep knowledge of her subject (music history, theory, technique) which she has honed (and continues to hone as a doctoral candidate). Her broad background in the humanities is another crucial foundation of her success. She has flawlessly and seamlessly integrated new technologies in her teaching (web pages, audio, video, social media, etc.). She has a knack for making lessons that are simple and clear yet challenging and profound. She has an amazing gift for consistently bringing out the best in each student—working both to affirm and challenge as needed. And of course, she is noted for the remarkable, beautiful harmony produced from so many disparate voices. So whether working one-on-one, or with a small ensemble, or with a hundred-voice choir, she has borne the best of fruit in her students. Their many honors and accomplishments are a vivid testimony to her giftedness as the best of teachers.

This depth of influence on an entire decade of our students is a reality due to Rebecca's personal gifts and strength of character. As a colleague, I have appreciated her strong sense of integrity, professionalism, and selfless labors; I have been inspired by her sense of faith, hope, and charity; and I have admired her dynamic energy, creativity, and productivity. Rebecca Raber is truly a transformational teacher, and I am delighted to give her my highest recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Hagstrom
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