



March 7, 2016

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to support Rebecca Raber in her candidacy with your organization. I have worked closely with Rebecca over the past three years. However, her time and impact on our schools transcends my limited time with the JP II Schools. Indeed, her reputation in our tightly knit community is one of great respect and admiration. During my time working with Rebecca, it has been an honor to partner with a professional educator who is extremely intelligent, hardworking, caring, passionate, and a professional in very sense of the word. It is always a pleasure to speak with Rebecca about her role as our choir director, but her depth as a person is what is so special to our school community.

Rebecca sees music education as a very important and special job. Her students learn to know musical theory, but they also see music as a truly special gift. Watching students under Rebecca's leadership grow from their middle school years to their senior year in both content and appreciation of vocal music, is inspiring. Students learn to push themselves to be the best they can be first out of respect for Mrs. Raber, then through her ability to connect and inspire them in terms of what music is truly all about.

The Christmas concerts that Rebecca leads are one of the pillars of our community's school year. The quality of the performance is awesome! However, what makes it truly exceptional is the manner in which Rebecca brings the whole community together. Whether it is guest readers, special accompanists or the involvement from parents to pull the event together, Rebecca is incredibly adept at bringing people together around this very special event. Everything from the advertisement to the concert space is a visual treat to the eye that says to our students and families, "This is a special event, come be a part of it!"

Our school community will miss Rebecca deeply. She will be very difficult to replace. Throughout the history of Shanley High School we have been blessed by a small group of extremely talented and devoted teachers, coaches, and other educators who provide our school with an enduring identity. Rebecca is one of that small group. Her impact on individual students and the overall community is lasting.

Rebecca will be successful with whatever role she chooses to take on next. She is committed to excellence.

Sincerely submitted,

Michael Smith Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
St. John Paul II Catholic Schools

*...to inspire exceptional student achievement by teaching the total person and fostering the following of Christ in an environment guided by the Gospel Spirit, as taught by the Catholic Church*