



February 21, 2012

To whom it may concern:

It is an honor to write this letter of recommendation for Mrs. Rebecca Raber. I have known her for over 10 years, beginning at the University of North Dakota where we attended school together. I also had the privilege to sing for Rebecca when she directed the Varsity Bards at the University of North Dakota, and I completed my student teaching experience under her guidance while I was attending Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. I have worked with Mrs. Raber for the past 3 years as a fellow teacher at Shanley High School. All throughout this time I have been inspired by Mrs. Raber's dynamic teaching, her creative musical expression, and her relentless commitment to inspire young people.

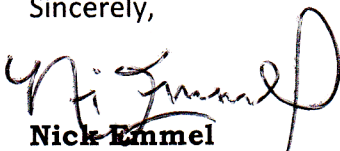
I have yet to meet an educator who is more organized than Mrs. Raber. This allows her to be confident and charismatic in her teaching. We have traveled on several tours together (including 2 choir tours that she organized); I have witnessed her direct many concerts, and have experienced countless hours of her teaching. Rebecca is able to manage several activities at once, which allows her to assess the group's progress while motivating every student simultaneously. She is well prepared for each lesson and rehearsal, and she is able to create an atmosphere of teamwork and cooperation in her choirs. This structure attracts students and has allowed Mrs. Raber to build a tradition of excellence at Shanley High School. She has taken a choir program of less than 15 participants to a multi-ensemble, nationally touring program with over 150 students involved annually. These students prepare several annual concerts that are regularly attended by supporters from all over the state.

Engaging students intellectually *and* spiritually, Mrs. Raber motivates the totality of the human person. For example, Mrs. Raber has introduced the tradition of a yearly "Candlelight Christmas Concert." As Artistic Director and Conductor, she has founded a rich tradition that will shape the history of Shanley High School for years to come. Her original compositions have challenged and mystified her choirs and audiences. Furthermore, I have witnessed Rebecca recognize creative talent in her students and in turn encourage them to compose and direct music.

Mrs. Raber inspires the students to embrace loyalty in their school tradition. Choir alumni frequently return to enjoy concerts, sit in on rehearsals, and support the program as volunteers. Rebecca challenges each student to be the best version of his or her self in music performance and in life. During my first year at Shanley, Mrs. Raber mentored and supported me as I learned about the "give and take" of the classroom and the difficulties of the academic year. She also advised me through planning a trip for 60 students and adults to Washington D.C. It is because of what she has taught me that I continue to be a loyal supporter of Shanley High School and her performing arts.

For these reasons, it is clear that Rebecca Raber would greatly benefit your institution. I am convinced you would find her to be an invaluable colleague, who is enthusiastic, creative, and in constant pursuit of perfection. If you have any questions regarding this letter or Mrs. Raber please contact me.

Sincerely,



Nick Emmel

Religion Department