



To Whom It May Concern;

Kelly Willard has requested a letter of recommendation and I am happy to be able to share with you my insights and observations regarding Kelly, her teaching and her pedagogical abilities.

Kelly is a strong young woman who demonstrates amazing leadership skills and a work ethic that is without peer. Her willingness to assume responsibility for numerous activities in school, find the resources to accomplish the activity and bring it to fruition is a component that any school would find attractive. Kelly has modeled a personal social and relational ethic that welcomes all, accepts everyone at face value and warmly engages them in her life. Her students quite simply think she hung the moon. Her colleagues rely on her opinions and parents of her students know that she has their child's best interest at heart.

I have been able to observe Kelly over the past few years in my capacity as clinician and adjudicator. I have been impressed with her rehearsal technique, repertoire selection, organizational skills, classroom management strategies and the level of performance of her choirs. She is simply one of the best young choral directors/educators in this state.

As I mentioned in the previous paragraph, her students love her. As we all know that love can also be tested by behavioral and emotional issues especially in the middle school environment. Kelly demonstrates a firm and fair discipline model that the students know will never become harsh even if they think her decision may not be "fair". Kelly always is careful to reinforce her concern for the student who has been disciplined so they realize that discipline does not remove them from her care or concern.

Lastly, Kelly has demonstrated a solid pedagogical foundation. She knows and cares for the developing voice. Her repertoire selections always reinforce healthy vocal habits and assure strong musical growth. Her record at choral festival speaks for itself. She has trained her choirs extremely well.

In closing, I believe Kelly Willard to be a major leader, incredible educator, a fine pedagogue and an inspirational choral director. If you seek someone with these components you search is over; Kelly Willard is the person for you.

Sincerely,

Frederic P. Sang
Artistic Director

The Kalamazoo Children's Chorus
Coordinator of the Michigan School Vocal Music Association Mentor Program
MSVMA Adjudicator, MSVMA State Honors Choir Director 2012