



To Whom It May Concern:

January 15, 2020

Richard de Meij and I have been colleagues at Hartford Public Schools since 2012. Initially, Richard and I worked alongside and collaborated with one another in the HPS World Language Department as fellow Spanish teachers. As long as I have known him, Richard has demonstrated his dedication to students by fully immersing himself in in-school and after-school activities such as serving as the advisor for the Gay Straight Alliance and Yearbook. This year he has also been instrumental in reviving the Model UN. Richard's energy, enthusiasm, and dedication to his classes make him an integral part of the Hartford Public High School community.

Richard's classroom presence is professional as well as relaxed. He prides himself on his classroom management, and his ability to connect to all students no matter their background. He possesses an uncommon energy and devotion to his students. It is not unusual for him to give up his free time to open his room to those who need extra help or just to chat. Students have benefitted immensely from the bonds and relationships they have formed with him throughout the years. Richard often remains in touch and acts as an ongoing mentor to former students. He is also extremely active in the local Hartford community.

Throughout my transition to district World Language Instructional Coach in August 2019, Richard has remained an active, helpful, and vocal member of our department. He is constantly sharing resources and opportunities with other World Language colleagues and seeking ways to improve his practice. In my numerous visits to his classroom, I am consistently impressed with the creativity he brings to his daily instruction, and with his ability to engage even reluctant learners in classroom activities. He promotes proficiency, language function and literacy across the disciplines in his classroom and makes insightful additions to our monthly PLC meetings.

It is with complete confidence that I recommend Richard de Meij! His ability to connect to students and his passion for and knowledge of World Languages and Cultures make him a vital addition to any educational community!

Sincerely,

**Kimberly Winfield**

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