

May 7, 2018

Tim & Mary Wright  
35 Hemlock Drive  
Millbury, MA 01527

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter as a recommendation for Daniel Ferreira.

Dan was the music teacher and band director at Millbury Jr./Sr. High School in Millbury, Massachusetts when my oldest child joined the marching band in 2008. My husband and I joined the local music booster organization and worked beside Dan, on a professional and personal level, until my son graduated in 2017. All three of my children were active in the Millbury music and marching band program from eighth grade to twelfth grade.

Dan is hard-working, fair, respectful, and has a great sense of humor! He is an expert at getting people of all ages and personalities to work together. He is dedicated and passionate about his work and his students. In addition to his daily teaching schedule, he consistently put in many hours beyond the regular school day and work week. He was very involved with the annual high school musical, teaching the parts, leading pit band, and he started a class to teach students how to make props. He also started a percussion ensemble, open to any student who wished to play, whether they were a music student or not. He started a summer band program for teens and adults with a neighboring town and applied for grants from both towns to help support the program. The Millbury/Sutton Community Summer Band is now over ten years old.

No one can question Mr. Ferreira's heart. When a co-worker was diagnosed with cancer, he organized students to help this person with their daily duties that were difficult for him to perform due to his illness. When this person passed away, Dan started an annual cornhole tournament in his name, which funds a local scholarship for a graduating senior. Dan spearheaded an effort to dedicate a seat in the auditorium to a co-worker who passed away suddenly. He was the lead organizer for fundraisers to fund an annual scholarship created in the name of a student who was killed in a car accident.

We have seen Dan grow from a novice in his position to a confident teacher and outspoken leader who worked tirelessly to advocate for the survival and expansion of the music program. Those efforts included approaching the school administration to fund the purchase of new marching band uniforms (\$50,000) and advocating for the reinstatement of instrument lessons. All this he did in an atmosphere of shrinking budgets and heavy cuts to staff and schedules, especially to the arts.

Dan leaves an indelible impression on every student he teaches, because not only does he teach in the traditional manner, he lives his lessons. All three of my children say that Dan is their favorite teacher. They respect him and often quote "Ferreira-isms". Dan inspires his students to work hard, do their best and follow their passions. My three will never forget the life lessons he has taught them.

Dan would be an asset to any employer and we recommend him without any reservations. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call us at home, (508) 865-7442.

Sincerely,

Mary and Tim Wright