

May 2018

RE: Daniel Ferreira

To Whom it May Concern;

Please accept this letter as my recommendation for Daniel Ferreira. I have known Dan for over ten years as a co-worker at Millbury Jr. Sr. High School and am currently his department director. Dan is very passionate about music, helping students learn, and bringing music to others in the school and community.

Dan works on a daily basis with students from grades 7 through 12 of various skill levels, including those with learning disabilities to those going to college for music. He takes pride in adapting and offering differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all his students. Dan does a great job of incorporating technology into his classes using software to compose as well as recording themselves playing their instruments. Using this recording students can then work with Mr. Ferreira to improve. His passion for music and the arts can be seen daily in his classes. In addition to the "traditional" music classes, Dan has created new classes such as History of Contemporary Music and our newest and very popular Music Theater and Production class, to meet more and updated interests of our students. He is also the director of the marching band and jazz band for MHS. These are both extracurricular activities at our school in which students perform at sporting events, parades, school concerts, competitions, and other community events in Millbury and surrounding communities. Dan always puts students in a position to succeed, and he has been an asset to our school.

Dan has made an enormous impact on the community. When I was asked to write this letter, I thought to myself how I was going to remember all of the things he has done for the community. These are just a few of the many activities, events and benefits he has been a part of. Dan is the director of the Millbury Sutton Community Band. They perform throughout the summer for the community at a variety of events and locations. In 2016 Dan started a community market night that has become a huge success in town. This event showcases local businesses and farms, school clubs, food trucks, plus music from the community band. He has held numerous events in support of scholarships, band trips, and new fundraising ideas to raise money for the entire music program for grades K-12. Because of the amount he gives back to the community, he has been awarded numerous grants to support music and the arts in the community. His community involvement has brought music and the arts to the forefront and has made many people take notice who may not have done so in the past.

I believe this following example best represents the type of individual Dan is. In 2015, Shawn, one of our custodians, was diagnosed with cancer. To make his job easier Dan, along with band students, volunteered their time after school to empty classroom trash, sweep floors, etc. to make it easier on Shawn while he was fighting cancer. No one told him to do this; Dan took it upon himself to gather some students to help others. Unfortunately, Shawn lost his battle with cancer. Dan has since created an annual cornhole tournament that helped provide a memorial area outside the school as well as a scholarship in Shawn's name. This is a great example of the type of person Dan is.

In the classroom and community Dan has made a difference for so many. I highly recommend Dan as he would be an asset to your school. If you would like any additional information or have questions regarding my recommendation please call me at 978-495-1962.

Thank you,
Jonathan Cunha
Millbury Jr. Sr. High School