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To Whom It May Concern:

Having known Daniel Ferreira for the past eleven years, it is a pleasure to have the opportunity to write this letter of recommendation. During this time, I have had the opportunity to work collaboratively with Dan both as a mentor and as a peer in his teaching position at Millbury Jr/Sr High School. I have observed him in various musical positions, where he has earned the respect of his peers and colleagues in providing students the benefits of his musical talents.

Dan came to us as a new graduate from UMass-Amherst after completing a rigorous hiring process. That process included several interviews as well as a classroom demonstration/observation with our high school band. Dan had just completed his student teaching for the Northborough Public Schools, one of the finest music departments in the state of Massachusetts. Dan came highly recommended by his supervising teacher, who stated "He is the best student teacher we have ever had" in all their years of accepting student teachers. Since coming to Millbury, he has exceeded all of our expectations.

He has performed very much as a teacher of experience taking on numerous teaching responsibilities including choral, instrumental, and classroom music. He has experience with curriculum development; communication with parents, students, and staff; budgeting, scheduling, and advising our music parent support group. His concert, jazz, and marching ensembles have won numerous awards at various festivals. During a recent three day festival trip to New York City, Dan's concert band was awarded the best overall ensemble and received high praise from festival judges on his conducting technique.

Dan also advises the high school Tri-M music honor society, leads and conducts our local summer community band, excels as the music director for our high school musicals, and has become an accomplished arranger writing music for all of his ensembles.

Dan is also a very fine percussionist with a high standard of performing and self-improvement. For his students, he organizes both an annual big band jazz and "night of percussion" concert. Both concerts are composed of area professionals with Dan performing on drum set, mallet, and various concert percussion. In addition, Dan has become a "first call" freelance percussionist in the Central Massachusetts region performing with professional organizations such as the Assabet Valley Mastersingers, Clafin Hill Symphony Orchestra, & Hanover Theater for the Performing Arts.

I've thought a lot about the words that would best describe him. He is hardworking, reliable, caring, responsible, thoughtful, and firmly grounded in reality. He is modest and does not profess to be something that he is not. Dan knows his abilities and limitations as well.

Dan is an outstanding musician and teacher. He would be a valuable asset to any music program. He has my highest recommendation and best wishes for continued success. Please feel free to contact me should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

James M. Rollins, M. Ed.
Music Teacher
Millbury Public Schools