

BRADLEY

UNIVERSITY

November 5, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to recommend to you Dr. Walter Parks. I have known Dr. Parks since 1991 as a teacher at Metamora High School in Metamora, IL. In fact, because of his diverse percussion abilities I hired him to teach percussion and coach the percussion ensemble at Bradley University which he did for 10 successful years.

I have always been impressed by Dr. Park's ability to work in a team atmosphere. When he came to Metamora he was an assistant director having some of his own responsibilities and sharing some. He adjusted quickly to those duties and did excellent work. When the Director of Bands left to pursue administration Dr. Parks stepped in to assume those duties and a new assistant was hired for the program. Further, though he is recognized as a "band director", Dr. Parks has enthusiastically supported the high schools choral program and art program sharing concerts and creating events that support the fine and creative arts.

Dr. Parks brings a wealth of experience and wisdom to the classroom. His diverse educational background touts performance, music education and curriculum and instruction. As a percussionist he is well-rounded but has the advantage of working with steel drums for many years. In fact, I have called upon his high school steel drum band to perform with the Peoria Municipal Band and for the Central Illinois Summer Band Camp several times in the past. He is our resident expert in multi-cultural drumming.

The Metamora Wind Ensemble has improved immensely under Dr. Parks direction. Musically they have made real progress and they have performed high quality literature. For his students he has taken advantage of Honor Bands, Band Showcases, Guest Conductors and more each year planning a program that holds the students interest while demanding that they continue to grow as musicians and as people.

Though Dr. Parks has enjoyed his public school teaching he also finds the need to grow as a musician and as an individual. He is interested in moving back to the university to continue his career as a musician and as an educator who works on behalf of students. Please give him your most careful consideration.

Sincerely,



David Vroman, Director of Bands
Chairperson for the Department of Music
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