

April 2, 2019

Director of Personnel:

It is my honor to write this letter of recommendation for my colleague and friend, Robert Cawson, for a position in your school district. I have known Robert for the last seven years and worked with him at Gaines Elementary School in the Swartz Creek School District.

As a passionate educator who loves teaching, Robert is always looking for ways to help his students grow both academically and as responsible, caring people. He has great rapport with his students and the members of the school community. Robert is the type of person who always gives 110 percent to everything he does and he is always seeking opportunities to teach his students to be the best they can be.

Robert has taught first and fourth grade in our school. As the kindergarten teacher, my students left my class and went to his. As you can imagine we did a lot of collaborating to make sure that each student was successful. He did an excellent job of finding each student's strengths and weaknesses, and designed lessons that would help them grow and excel. The students all loved and respected him, and as a result worked very hard for him each day. First grade is a very important year in a student's life and I was impressed with the way he taught them to be responsible and kind-hearted students.

When Robert moved to fourth grade, it presented some new learning opportunities for both his class and mine. We developed a big buddy/little buddy program, where the fourth grade students became mentors and teachers for their little buddies, the kindergarten students. Each month we planned an activity together that encouraged our students to work as a team to accomplish a goal. These students became friends who looked out for each other in other school areas. It was a wonderful program that benefited both groups of students. Robert taught his students so many life lessons through this program. They mastered their own skills, while also helping someone younger learn, and he taught his students life lessons about mentoring and being strong role models for the younger students.

Prior to Robert leaving Swartz Creek, Robert and I coordinated an after-school program at Gaines Elementary School. This program is fully funded by members of the Gaines community and provides our students with opportunities to learn a variety of new skills through "clubs". Members of the community, parents and school staff taught these clubs. The students were allowed to choose from a variety of opportunities such as homework help, art, painting, chess, kick boxing, knitting, running, soccer, basketball, activities in the gym, math and fun with science. This program was very well received, and nearly 50 percent of the schools students participated. As a coordinator, Robert was responsible for recruiting volunteers to lead the clubs, registering all the students, tracking important safety issues such as allergies and student pick-up, and also was responsible for buying supplies for each club. He also sent thank you notes to each person involved in helping with the after-school program. The after-school program was a huge undertaking, requiring a great deal of organization, which Robert handled very well.

Robert's passion for education is apparent in everything he does. He excels at providing meaningful lessons for the students and always goes above and beyond in any role he takes on as a leader. He is a talented and mindful professional and would excel in any position. Your organization would be lucky to have him as a member of your staff.

If I can answer any questions or provide any additional information, feel free to contact me at tomandlynn3@gmail.com or 989-271-8757.

Sincerely,
Lynn Atherton