

Letter of Recommendation for Matthew Stuard

It is both a distinct honor and pleasure to write this letter in support of Matthew Stuard's application for Program Supervisor of Mason Summit High School. In the five years I have worked with Mr. Stuard he has proven himself to be an outstanding educator with multiple gifts that will translate well into the management and stewardship of Mason Summit High School. Mr. Stuard brings a deep commitment to the welfare of his students, an outstanding ability to perceive what needs to be changed and how to realize that change, and finally a calm and reassuring demeanor that lends itself well to helping Summit students.

As Mr. Stuard integrated himself into the Mason Summit culture, he was observant and thoughtful about all aspects of the program. He maintained staff initiatives that were well established and asked excellent questions about elements that were new or seemed to need an improved strategy. Within two years of joining our team, he began to make suggestions and implement changes that radically improved the program's ability to reach students more effectively. The list is too long to share here, but some of the more notable achievements must be known. An extensive and comprehensive attendance program allowed our secretary and staff to eliminate inefficient and inaccurate methods of tracking students. A camera network greatly increased safety, monitoring and accountability given our small staff. Integration of Career Cruising into his Life Skills curriculum and subsequently all Personal Development classes improved our Educational Development Planning for all students. Mr. Stuard researched and obtained a progress report program for staff to lower case management meeting time while simultaneously increasing the quality of our service to students. These are all important contributions because they reflect a deep commitment to not simply manage a classroom, but to effectively improve quality of service and education for all students and staff. Mr. Stuard consistently seeks improvement. This quality is an essential ingredient for Mason Summit High School to advance to the next level. As accountability from the state and increased graduation standards become common practice, Mr. Stuard's command of technology, data creation and monitoring will be key. He has many excellent ideas and goals for the program that we have discussed at length, and I believe he is well focused and realistic about what the program will need to continue in a pursuit of excellence.

Mr. Stuard shows an intense dedication to the program and his students. He shows this in multiple ways. He always goes above and beyond in thought, time commitment and quality for everything he does. This trait will be extremely important as he works to reflect the integrity and value the program brings to the Mason community. I expect he would do an outstanding job of connecting with people to show leadership and passion for the mission of Mason Summit High School. His students consistently perform well in his courses. I attribute this as much to his excellence in teaching as to his ability to form supportive yet accountable relationships with his students. He has created numerous motivational techniques and accountability methods that have significantly changed students' lives for the better.

Mr. Stuard is an excellent problem solver. I have enjoyed watching him resolve student issues, technology challenges, program design needs, building management challenges, and safety concerns. I often sought his counsel when I was working to resolve issues and found he always

brought a fresh and insightful solution. Given the skill he has in this area, I would expect him to translate that gift to his work with students as well. While Mr. Stuard is not a certified counselor, he has a strong understanding of psychology and our students. He will be extremely capable in helping students to resolve disputes, take responsibility for their choices and improve their own problem solving skills. This has been the essence of the Program Supervisor position, and he can readily serve in that capacity.

Finally, on a personal note; when I decided to pursue the next chapter in my life, it was with a great deal of anguish about the welfare and continuity of the program I had labored so long to create and build. I approached Mr. Stuard because I felt he was uniquely qualified not only to “inherit” stewardship of the program, but because I believe he has the skills, dedication and passion to take the program through what promises to be an exciting and challenging future. I felt profound delight and optimism when he not only embraced the idea, but in true Matt Stuard fashion stood behind his commitment with three days of hard work to insure the program supervisor role was well understood and clarified. He did this with no expectation of compensation, no promise of a guarantee for the position and certainly not because he had nothing better to do. He did this because he cares as deeply as I do for his fellow staff and students, and he wants them to have the best. That is the core of true leadership and dedication.

Please give Mr. Stuard every possible consideration for this position. I am extremely confident, you will be grateful you did.

I can be reached by all of the methods listed below, and I welcome your inquiries and questions about this outstanding person.

Most sincerely,

Katherine Bertolini

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