



Millcreek Township School District

McDowell Intermediate High School
3320 Caughey Road • Erie, Pennsylvania 16506-2798 • (814) 835-5487



"Creating the Future"

www.mtsd.org

December 15, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of my student teacher, John Halmi. John has been under my supervision for the past 15 weeks at McDowell Intermediate High School. During this time, I had the privilege of watching him develop into an excellent teacher and professional. John understands his students and the work involved in being a teacher to a degree I consider outstanding.

One of John's strongest attributes is his ability to utilize a variety of instructional strategies during his lessons. He demonstrated understanding of how students learn and designed lessons which engaged visual, auditory, and kinesthetic modalities. He used many manipulatives to reinforce concepts. The use of Carnegie Learning software enhanced the understanding of struggling students in his lower level class. In addition, students worked both cooperatively and individually on the subject matter.

John brought a great deal of energy, excitement, and enthusiasm to the classroom. For instance, when teaching probability of independent events, he designed a game show to model the probability of winning. The students played the game while completing the mathematical calculations. The students loved it, and subsequently performed well on the test of this material.

In addition, John has command over the subject matter and communicates it quite well. Topics that are often difficult for students were broken down into manageable pieces. As a result, students responded well to his teaching style and felt comfortable participating and asking questions.

John established a good rapport with each of his students. He took the time to learn all of their names before taking over each class. Consistently, he made a point to individually talk to students and ask how they were doing, how they did in the game last night, or what they did over the weekend. He also made an effort to get to know other members of the staff on both a professional and personal level.

John Halmi is a very courteous, outgoing, and genuinely pleasant person. I am confident that John will make an exemplary teacher. I strongly recommend him for any teaching position without reservation.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jeffrey Tillich
Instructor, Mathematics Department