

July 21, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Dr. Keith Bookwalter. As a teacher of 40+ years, I can honestly say that Dr. Bookwalter is by far the best principal that I have worked for and there have been numerous ones (11 including Dr. Bookwalter). I worked for Dr. Bookwalter for only one year, but in that year I was able to witness many of his attributes. In spite of unreasonable limitations put on him by the owner of the school, he was able to lead a Toddler-Kindergarten staff with inspiration, patience, wisdom, and clear-mindedness. He displayed care and compassion for staff and families. Dr. Bookwalter instituted The Character Counts Program. He took an active part in the student's lives by doing the yard duty for my kindergarten/transitional kindergarten class, eating lunch with the classes, and taking part in classroom celebrations and field trips. He is a very grassroots kind of guy and unpretentious, even though he came to us with an amazing history and experience in education. Mr. B., as we affectionately called him, was true to his word as a collaborative, democratic leader. He allowed the teachers the freedom to teach creatively, but stayed in close contact with us and our curriculums. His advice was always welcome. We benefited from his vast experience as a teacher, administrator, school builder, and author. We all appreciated the trust he had in us to do our jobs, as we were trained. Dr. B. was working towards the growth of our school, before we were suddenly shut down, through no fault of his! He was in the process of upgrading our website, with the help of one of our parents. He was working on marketing our school and giving tours to prospective families. On our in-service days, Dr. B. shared his knowledge on education, such as in his article, "A Holistic Approach to Nurturing the Spirit". He also encouraged teachers to share their knowledge with one another, on these in-service days. Dr. B. made sure the school was observing all safety drills on a monthly basis: fire, earthquake, and safety-shutdown procedure. He established good rapport with the parents and thoroughly communicated with them through his biweekly newsletters.

In the midst of a very challenging year, Dr. Keith Bookwalter maintained complete professionalism with his staff and families. We witnessed his knowledge and abilities on how to build and grow a school. Unfortunately, this process was thwarted and cut short by the owner of the school. I truly wish that he would be able to run a school that I was part of again. I know it would flourish under his tutelage. His depth of educational knowledge was only briefly witnessed by me and the rest of our staff, and I know given a complete chance, Dr. Bookwalter would create a school with high academic standards and the best methods for children's emotional, social, and academic growth. The institution that hires Dr. Keith Bookwalter is a fortunate one indeed!

Sincerely,

Susan C. Townsend

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(Kindergarten/transitional kindergarten, first grade, fifth grade teacher and theater arts director at The Laureate School 2005-2015)