

WHITMORE CHARTER SCHOOLS

Sarah Olson, Principal
Mary Gonzales, Assistant Principal
"Our family working with your family."

June 22, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am the Fine Arts Chair and the Drama Teacher at Whitmore Charter Schools. I have taught drama here for the past eleven years. Whitmore Charter is comprised of three schools, a K-8 on-site school; with two classes at each grade level; a K-8 home school; and a high school hybrid, a mix of home-school, on-line and on-site. What sets Whitmore apart for a small school is the offerings of the arts and technology at all grade levels. This past year Dennis Frayne was the music teacher at Whitmore and I would like to provide a letter of recommendation as he leaves the Whitmore family for personal reasons.

The Fine Arts Team is comprised of Drama, Dance, Music and Art. We collaborate on events and the overall vision of the arts programs. Dennis brought so much experience to the table with a background in both music and theater. He learned the ropes quickly and approached his music program in a very innovative way in order to allow for the best music experience for those who wish to participate.

Dennis is not one to do things the same way as the prior instructor just to keep things easy. He came in with an approach that set higher expectations, and the students stepped up, even though at first they would feel out of their comfort zone. His success is measured by the quality of the events, and they were all exceptional. He is able to identify the approach needed for individual students and is able to have them make strides with an understanding that brings them to another level of learning.

We worked closely on all events, but especially on the High School musical, "Oliver." His perspective during auditions had me cast someone in a role that I had not considered, which turned out to be exceptionally wise advice. He had to play most of the piano score for the show which was a gargantuan task. This was in addition to working with all soloists and the ensemble. This show is outside of his normal teaching duties, and he was so dedicated.

I have worked with several music teachers here at Whitmore, but none that was as diligent about the quality of the music program for the long-term benefit of the students' musical education. Any school would be fortunate to have him on staff. I learned much from him by watching how he handled his program and how he handled our collaborative events. He will be sorely missed here at Whitmore, but we hope that his talents will continue to advance music education and the arts in general.

Sincerely,

Gail Bengel
Drama Director/Drama Teacher K-12
Fine Arts Department Chair
Whitmore Charter Schools



WHITMORE CHARTER SCHOOLS

Sarah Olson, Principal

Mary Gonzales, Assistant Principal

"Our family working with your family."



3435 DON PEDRO • CERES, CALIFORNIA 95307

PHONE 209.556.1617 • FAX 209.538.7931