



# Citrus High School

9820 Citrus Ave. • P.O. Box 5090 • Fontana CA • 92334-5090 (909) 357-5300 • Fax: (909) 357-5302

## To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Travis since shortly after he moved to California from Canada in 2000. I have been his university instructor, his administrator, and his friend. In all of those capacities, I have developed a great deal of respect for the man and his philosophy and methods of teaching.

What first impressed me about Travis was his hands-on, get-the-job-done attitude. Once he has a vision, he finds a way to make it reality. Take his experiences at Almeria Middle School, for example. Teaching out of a trailer, and starting with but a single computer, Travis managed to have thirty computers by the end of his first year. How? By rebuilding and reprogramming computers he salvaged from the Department of Defense. A short time later, students in his science classes were designing robots on the reclaimed computers and assembling them with a class set of Lego robotics kits that Travis purchased with his own money. That's the kind of teacher and technology expert he is - savvy, practical, and willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done.

Shortly after meeting him, I successfully convinced him to complete a master's degree in instructional technology. As his university instructor, I was provoked by the creative ways he found to use technology, particularly when eliciting critical thinking skills. He would, for instance, teach typing by programming and moderating a chat server within a murder mystery game, rather than with a typing program. For him, it compacted more learning. Not only did it improve the students typing but it also developed their reasoning skills. He's a big believer in integrating student learning, repeating their exposure to concepts in different contexts and applications.

When he graduated, I offered him the Technology Coordinator position at my school. He happily looked after the technology budget, diagnosed and repaired computers and network problems, and managed various servers and site video broadcasting equipment. As his supervising administrator, I noticed how wildly popular his technology classes were among students, and for all the right reasons. The students enjoyed themselves while learning to use technology to advance their learning. They created web-based portfolios, in which they kept track of their learning with reflective mind maps, maintained a writing log about current social issues, and exhibited their self-directed projects in robotics, video-production, and many other integrated technology modules he's created. Travis' algebra lessons also sparkled with the same allure. He blends direct teaching of math concepts with follow-up practice using miniature white boards or manipulatives such as cards and dice. Travis is not all show, however; he analyzes assessment data using OARS or his own data collection methods, reteaches as needed, and assigns specific remedial work on the computer.

As important as anything else in teaching, Travis has a big heart. He cares for his students, and the care he shows them is evident in the respect they show him in turn. But that caring comes with a strong will and an insistence that students hold themselves accountable for their actions inside and outside the classroom. As a result, Travis runs a well-disciplined classroom, one of the best I have seen in my many years in education.

In my observations of Travis, there is a clear distinction among technology teachers, he doesn't teach "about" computers; rather he "uses" computers to engage students in activities that elicit a better quality of learning. He is a highly dedicated professional who knows how to motivate others. It is without reservation that I recommend him for employment in whatever capacity he is qualified for. And if his travels take him away from Southern California, he will be sorely missed by those he's touched.

Dr. Ken Decroo

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# Summit High School

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July23, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Travis Wood. I have known him for over 10 years. I hired Mr. Wood as a teacher for Almeria Middle School in the Fontana Unified School District. He was one of the best teachers I have ever hired. I was his principal for at least 3 years at Almeria Middle School. We have kept in touch professionally as our careers have brought changes to our job sites.

Mr. Wood was hired while I was on a teacher recruiting trip to Vancouver, British Colombia, Canada. He made the transition to California with ease. I found him to be very knowledgeable in content, an effective and well rounded instructor and a contributor to the entire staff of the school. He has taught a variety of subjects and is well versed and trained in content standards, use of data to guide assessment and the effective use of technology to improve student learning. His observations and evaluations were of high quality and I would hire him again if ever given the opportunity.

I would venture to say that Mr. Wood would be well prepared to be employed at your school. He has made such a move in the past. He will be a valued addition to your school. He will be a positive member of the staff and he will be professional in all he does. I always found him to be timely, organized, well dressed, and well comported. He was always a student advocate urging all students to do their personal best. Mr. Wood was always a well prepared educator.

It will be a loss for our school district and students but a gain for you and your students. I wish Mr. Wood all the best and I feel confident you will have the same positive and fulfilling interactions I had with Mr. Wood.

Please contact me if I can be of further help.

Richard Roth  
Assistant Principal

# Tokay Elementary School

FONTANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
7846 Tokay Avenue • Fontana, CA 92336 • Phone 909-357-5770  
*Terry Abernathy, Principal      Tammy Stringer, Assistant Principal*



May 26, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am delighted to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Travis Wood. Mr. Wood teaches Algebra and Computer Technology at Truman Middle School. I have known Mr. Wood since 2005, while I worked in the capacity of Assistant Principal at Truman Middle School.

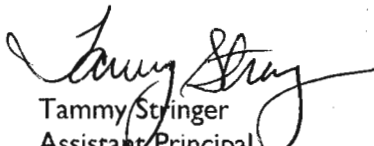
Mr. Wood is very knowledgeable in math procedures and calculations, which is a definite benefit to his students. He uses direct instruction and computer technology to encourage math growth in the classroom. In addition, Mr. Wood analyzes assessment data and monitors student progress on a regular basis, in an effort to reteach students according to their needs.

Mr. Wood develops creative lessons for his computer technology class. He teaches lessons in areas, such as, Word Processing, PowerPoint Presentations, video production, and safe internet exploration. His students are taught to be responsible as they take pictures or interview school staff and peers to produce school-wide spirit videos. His students are able to use the computer tools to build success in their other academic area.

Mr. Wood is a very important member of the Truman Middle School team. As the school's Technology Coach, he has been instrumental in developing a school website that included various links for staff, parents, and students. He has also provided technological support for staff members through the format of staff development and classroom computer assistance.

I, wholeheartedly, recommend Mr. Wood for the position that he is seeking. I feel strongly that he will be a great contribution to your educational team. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (909)357-5770, Ext. 222.

Sincerely,

  
Tammy Stringer  
Assistant Principal  
Tokay Elementary School

# Harry S. Truman Middle School

16224 Mallory Drive • Fontana, CA 92335 • Phone 909-357-5190

Paul Pagano  
Principal

Tammy Stringer  
Assistant Principal

Andrew Scherrer  
Assistant Principal

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January 4, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Travis Wood for teaching position in your district. Mr. Wood is a 6/7/8 grade technology teacher at Truman Middle School where I am his evaluator. I have worked with Mr. Wood for three years. This year I have had the opportunity to observe him working with his students and their parents and his skills are well developed.

Mr. Wood teaches two computer classes, one video production class, one AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) class and three months into the current school year he was asked to take a Science 8 class because the site lost a teacher and he took the job and has done excellent.

For the past two years Mr. Wood has been the site technology support person. Whenever there is a technology issue with any computer, software, projector or broadcast equipment Mr. Wood is the one we call and he always completes the task at a very high level. When teachers have questions about how to do something with technology they call him and he gives them whatever support they need.

This year he has assisted school administration by running two staff development sessions where he taught the entire staff how to use EduSoft, a new program for analyzing student test data.

Mr. Wood communicates well with his student's parents regarding their individual progress. If a student has any issues he calls home and gets the parents involved.

Mr. Wood is a very bright and capable person and I consider him an excellent teacher in everyway. I highly recommend him for any teaching position that his credential allows him to teach. If you have any questions regarding his performance please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Scherrer  
Assistant Principal  
Truman Middle School  
(909) 357-5190

# NAMGIS EDUCATION BOARD

P.O. Box 50, Alert Bay, B.C. V0N 1A0 • Tel: (250) 974-5591 • Fax: (250) 974-2475



May 5, 2000

Travis Wood  
T'lisalagi'lakw School  
Alert Bay, B.C.  
V0N 1A0

Dear Travis,

This letter is to confirm that I have received and reluctantly accepted your resignation as a teacher at T'lisalagi'lakw School effective June 30, 2000.

During your time with us, you have made a powerful contribution to the school and community. If not for you we might still be in the horse and buggy technological age. You have risen to every challenge that your job involved and that I placed upon you. You have shown yourself to be a capable and dedicated professional and a good friend. You have inspired students and staff with your work ethic, professionalism and dedication. It has been a joy to see you mature as a teacher over the last three years. Your colleagues and I will remember you positively.

On behalf of the board, our children and T'lisalagi'lakw School, I wish to thank you for your devoted efforts on our behalf over the last three years. You have made a very noticeable contribution to the community dynamic. You will be missed.

With highest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Raesler', is written over the typed name.

R. Raesler  
Principal  
Per: Namgis Education Board



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900 Fifth Street, Nanaimo,  
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Tel (250) 741-2555 • Fax (250) 741-2393  
<http://www.mala.bc.ca/www/discover/educate.htm>

August 8, 1997

**Re: Travis Wood**

To whom it may concern,

I recommend serious consideration of Travis Wood for a teaching position. Travis successfully completed the University of Victoria - Malaspina University College Partnership Teacher Education Program at Malaspina in May, 1997. As part of his program Travis prepared for and successfully completed two six week practica in his final year of the program.

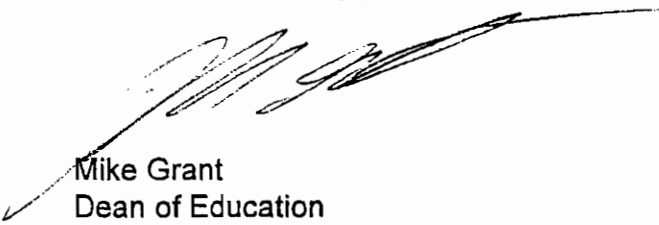
The purpose of this letter is to recognize Travis' work above the requirements for the Bachelor of Education degree and B.C. teacher certification.

Travis initiated a successful application for funding from the Government of Canada's Information Highway, Science and Entrepreneurship Program on behalf of the Malaspina Faculty of Education. As part of the application, Travis and a fellow student wrote a proposal based on a curriculum they had prepared as an assignment for our curriculum and methods course. The Malaspina Computer Camp for Thinking Kids was the only camp of its kind to be funded.

As one of the directors of the computer camp, Travis was responsible for the operation of a very successful program. He effectively carried out a variety of duties including:

- teaching computer technology skills to children of various ages and abilities;
- soliciting corporate sponsorship and support;
- establishing positive relationships with local businesses and community organizations;
- maintaining computers in a local area network;
- implementing curriculum by creating interesting and engaging lessons for students; and
- training staff in HTML programming, dismantling and reassembling computers, and other computer skills necessary for the program.

Please contact me if you require further detail on my reasons for recommending Travis for a teaching position on your staff.



Mike Grant  
Dean of Education

*Serving Central Vancouver Island and Powell River*

**Letter of Reference for  
Mr. Travis Wood  
719 East Virginia Street  
Rialto California  
92376      Tel. 1-909-875-7777**

Reference written by:

Mr. R.E. Bannerman, Bachelor of Education  
....retired Administrator/Teacher (32 years service)

Address: R.E. Bannerman  
2200 Piercy Avenue,  
Courtenay, B.C. V9N-3G6  
tel. 1-250-334-3560  
e-mail... [bannermn@island.net](mailto:bannermn@island.net)

To Whom it may concern: It is indeed a pleasure to write a reference/letter of recommendation for Mr. Travis Wood.

I first met Travis in September 1996. He was assigned to my grade 4 classroom for his six week teaching practicum.

I was immediately impressed with his tremendous amount of computer knowledge and his ability to produce practical student/teacher uses for the computer in the classroom. Despite offers and opportunities to work outside of the school system, Travis had decided he wanted to work with students in a classroom setting. He worked hard during the six week practicum and demonstrated to both himself and those around him that he had the desire, ability and stamina to become a solid teacher. His quiet, pleasant manner and listening abilities revealed a caring, trustworthy quality that made the children comfortable....they wanted to work with him. Travis was very well prepared for each lesson and willingly tried different teaching strategies. He spent a great deal of time producing interesting computer-related activities for the students in many of the curricula areas.

Travis was very receptive to suggestions and we had, without exception, daily post-lesson discussions. Not only were the daily tasks evaluated but also many other broader topics involving the teaching profession were discussed.....a trait not always found with young student teachers.

After this successful practicum, Travis returned to Malaspina College in Nanaimo and then accepted a teaching position offered to him at Alert Bay.

**Dr. Noel Mottershead  
Professor Emeritus  
California State University  
Chico, CA**

July 31st, 1997

Re: Mr. Travis Wood

To whom it may concern,

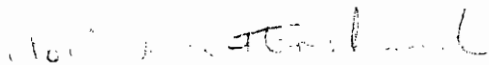
I have been asked to write a reference for Mr. Travis Wood in support of his application for a teaching position. I am happy to do so.

An outstanding qualification that Travis has is his knowledge and interest in computers. He was, at one time, engaged as a professional in assembling and repairing computers. He has since applied his skills to educational ends, and is currently engaged in presenting for Malaspina-University College a summer camp for elementary and secondary students, teaching them an understanding of the use of computers and their application to learning. This program has been very successful with very favourable response from Administration, parents, and students. Mr. Wood has shown much imagination and a practical skill he backs with enthusiasm.

Travis has in practice teaching demonstrated his ability to manage a classroom, hold the interests of students and have them achieve worthwhile learning. I feel confident in predicting that he will be a successful teacher, and certainly have no hesitation in recommending him for a post in education.

I consider him a person of high moral character, good judgment, and an easy ability to relate to other people.

Sincerely,



Dr. Noel F. Mottershead