

Janette S. Knutson
jknutson@spartan.org
608-269-2107 x2594



506 North Black River Street
Sparta High School Vocal Music
Sparta WI 54656

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in reference to Laurie Swigart, who is applying for a theatre position at [REDACTED]

Laurie has been a colleague of mine for the past fifteen years. She has been involved in the music program at Sparta High School as a parent, accompanist, costume designer, set designer, stage director, teacher, and friend. Together, we produced "Godspell", "West Side Story", "Joseph", and several Madrigal Feaste productions.

Laurie is a dedicated and determined teacher. Her shows are prepared to a professional level, due to her extensive research and planning. Her rehearsals are managed with a detailed schedule, complete with individual expectations and assignments. Students are made aware of their responsibilities from the beginning. Her standards are high; therefore, her shows are high-quality productions.

With each show we produced together, Laurie was responsible for all of the stage direction. In our shows, this included actors' rehearsals, blocking, set design, costume design, make-up design, and lighting. When there was a need, Laurie assumed additional roles such as seamstress, choreographer, pianist, sound technician, and counselor. Laurie does whatever needs to be done to make the show a success for the kids.

Laurie is a dedicated educator. She constantly strives to improve upon her skills by developing new curriculum, seeking out meaningful scripts, and finding new materials to keep her students challenged and interested. She recently earned her degree in theatre education, while simultaneously creating a successful community theatre troupe in Sparta. She prepares her students for theatre competitions and workshops, where they earn top honors. Her recent production of vignettes from the 9/11 tragedy were awarded notable honors from the judging panel.

I thoroughly enjoy working with Laurie as a colleague and friend. I believe she would be a welcome addition to your staff.

Please feel free to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

Janette S Knutson
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