

Thursday, June 3, 2010

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*r.e. letter of reference for Sonya Jason*

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my great pleasure to recommend Sonya Jason for the Band Director position at Sea Crest School. I have worked with Sonya for ten years in my capacity as Director of Bands at Cunha Intermediate School. During that time I have been continually impressed with Sonya's musicality, professionalism, and effectiveness as a teacher.

I can tell immediately when a student has studied with Sonya. She emphasizes the basics of playing an instrument: full breath support, clean articulation, and proper mouth and body position. This strong foundation provides students a springboard to a mature sound, regardless of the level of difficulty of the music, or the student's musical background.

Sonya uses effective teaching techniques in working with middle school students: upbeat pacing, vocalization, repetition, a mix of demonstration and practice, and student choice. Her instruction meets the needs of verbal, kinesthetic, and auditory learners alike. By facilitating authentic success for her students, Sonya helps young musicians feel empowered, successful, and proud.

As well as being an effective teacher, Sonya is also a very successful professional musician. Her students and their families enjoy seeing her in action, on the coastside, and beyond. Because she functions daily at this superior level in her own playing, she is able to share that passion with students. Sonya's love of music is contagious.

I am impressed with Sonya's ability to connect with middle school music students. Her standards are high, and expectations are clear. She empowers students to achieve high level of playing by continually emphasizing fundamental musical concepts. Her teaching techniques are varied and adaptive. Sonya's joy for music becomes her students' joy for music.

Sonya would be a superb fit for the Band Director position at Sea Crest School. I recommend her without reservation. Please feel free to contact me to discuss Sonya Jason's qualifications in further detail.

Sincerely,  
Maria Portello-Swagel