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HOPKINS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Committed to Equity & Excellence



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To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write a letter of recommendation for Larry Wade, whom I have known since 1993. As the Science Curriculum Coordinator for the Hopkins School District at the time, I had the opportunity to work with Larry on developing curriculum based on his children's book *Getting to Know Whales*. More recently in my position as Superintendent, I have had the honor to watch Larry's work as a sixth-grade teacher at Gatewood Elementary School.

Larry teaches children, as well as adults, with wonder and inquiry. He has the gift of taking the beauty and the simplicity of nature to motivate people on the role of nature in our every-day world. For example, Larry developed school-yard nature areas at Gatewood, where students can see the balance of ecosystems by simply looking out the classroom window. He firmly believes that every thing has a story and a purpose. Children learn from real things in Mr. Wade's teaching, which exemplifies experiential and inquiry learning.

Mr. Wade's instruction is complemented with a strong background in biology and children's literature. He is skilled at preparing materials and curriculum that can be accessed and easily understood by his students. In addition, he was a pioneer in digital learning in the Hopkins School District. As teachers and students requested more natural science experiences, Larry developed "Nature's Corner," which allowed students and teachers alike to access online pictures, illustrations, along with activities for students to complete when Mr. Wade was not able to take them outdoors. Because of his vision, Nature's Corner remains a favorite of many teachers and students.

I highly recommend Larry Wade for any position he is pursuing. He is a caring, child-centered, thoughtful, and fun naturalist teacher. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "John W. Schultz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

John W. Schultz, Ph.D.
Superintendent