## LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

MR. DAVID C. FRANSON Principal

Mr. Edward M. Piotrowski, Associate Principal M. Therese DeClerk, Associate Principal North Campus 100 S. Brainard Ave. LaGrange, IL 60525 (708) 579-6300

South Campus 4900 S. Willow Springs Rd Western Springs, IL 60558 (708) 579-6500

March 20, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for *Dr. Matt Wanzenberg*. I have known him for the past four years. In that time, he has demonstrated his professionalism by way of service to students and their families. As a Program Coordinator, he has personally guided many students through a successful high school experience. He is a servant leader who has positioned himself for the next phase of his career.

Matt has worked tirelessly and developed caring relationships with countless special needs students and their parents. Whether there have been matters related to Special Ed. law, transition planning, student discipline, scheduling, post secondary education, or the ever present ad-hoc/emergent issues, he has consistently displayed his willingness to take on the tough challenges. He has a talent for maintaining equanimity. Even when there is disagreement at the table, Matt has a penchant for working towards a "win-win" situation. If that isn't possible, he is routinely the voice of reason. He makes sure that the student and his/her parents understand the position of the school, or at the very least, the limitations of the school code. As principal, I can attest to his fine student-centered work. Above all, he is a person of integrity. Dr. Wanzenberg is more concerned with "doing the right thing" as opposed to just doing things right. It has been a true pleasure to have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Matt Wanzenberg.

I would recommend Matt Wanzenberg for a position within your institution. He not only has a rich set of experiences that uniquely qualify him for the job, he also possesses the passion and drive to help support and realize the mission statement of your organization. If you have any questions, or if I may be of some other service, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

David C. Franson, Principal

## LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

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April 1, 2008

## To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Matt Wanzenberg for his entire career at Lyons Township High School and have come to know him as a man of exceptional character, singular devotion to the students he has worked with, and meticulous attention to detail. I am very sorry to see Dr. Wanzenberg leave LTHS but trust he will make a great impact in any endeavor he chooses.

In December, 2007, Dr. Wanzenberg and I had the opportunity to present together at the Raising Student Achievement Conference regarding the many ways that he has maximized the opportunities for our students. Under his leadership, LTHS was able to make Adequate Yearly Progress with our sub-group of students with disabilities—something that is a considerable struggle for most any school. The success can be attributed to Dr. Wanzenberg's accommodation applications, knowledge of student strengths, and understanding of courses and programs that best fit each individual student's needs. In the area of special education, which has become extremely difficult to navigate, Dr. Wanzenberg has routinely charted a course to set his students toward fair winds and the best opportunity for smooth sailing.

In addition to his work as a Program Coordinator, Dr. Wanzenberg has also worked to integrate new strategies into the curriculum, mentor new teachers, support parents, defend the District's interests, and still find the time to personalize his time with the many dozens of students whom he meets with regularly to update IEP's.

While the students of LTHS will certainly feel his absence, Dr. Wanzenberg has a great deal to offer as an educator, a consultant, and a leader in any other area where he puts his talents and interests. I recommend him most highly and would welcome any calls or contacts in support of Dr. Matt Wanzenberg.

Yours,

Director of Curriculum and instruction

## LYONS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

District Office • 100 S. Brainard Ave. • LaGrange, IL 60525 • (708) 579-6451

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January 2008

SUPERINTENDENT Dennis G. Kelly, Ph.D.

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Matt Wanzenberg since 1998. He currently works at Lyons Township High School as a Program Coordinator in Special Education. He is the shining star in a very talented department. Matt does many things well because of a wonderful combination of professional skills, positive attitude, and great work ethic.

Matt is a leader. He is confident, humane, and cool under pressure. In the most difficult situations, he maintains his poise and perspective. He is a caring person who understands people. He can solve problems with parents and staff with no lingering resentment or anger. He has the empathy and patience to reach people who others have already dismissed. Matt is an exemplary teacher, a skilled administrator, and a trusted and valued colleague. He is a consummate team player who will do anything he can to help make our school a better place for students.

Matt's extensive knowledge of special education law has been invaluable to our school district. He is masterful at making sure students receive the exact services they require through their IEP meetings. The fact that the school district made AYP this past year with our special education students is directly attributable to Matt's organizational skills and planning.

Matt has a blend of intellect, maturity, compassion and common sense that makes for a people-centered leader. I recommend him to you without reservation.

Sincerely,

Dennis G. Kelly, Ph.D.

Superintendent