

PRINGLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
Brian D. Gander, Principal  
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Sandy Husk, Superintendent

April 17, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to share with you my experience working with Brian D. Gander. It has been my privilege to work for Brian Gander over the past 6 years. During this time, I have worked at Pringle Elementary in a full time primary 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teaching position. For the past 5 years, I have served as a member of the Pringle Leadership Committee in various roles to include Literacy Leader, Primary Team Leader and currently Teacher Leader.

During the time spent working with Brian Gander under his guidance, Pringle Elementary maintained and or increased our academic scores. Brian brought to Pringle an insight and understanding of the importance of collecting and interpreting appropriate data to create and measure student growth. It was through committee's, staff meetings, team time and grade level time that Brian helped our school to define cross curricular guidelines and goals that both incorporated not only our state and district guidelines but also our own personal school expectations. He both encouraged and supported collegial sharing, team time and helped to facilitate grade level, team and staff requests. The bottom line for Brian Gander is if it is good for kids he will help to make it happen.

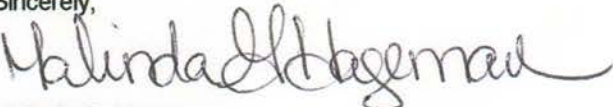
One such experience that has benefited our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students was when our primary team redefined our reading and language arts block. In the past, teachers were responsible for their own reading groups and would receive instructional support 45 minutes a week. Working with Brian, we changed our language arts time to a flooding model which allowed our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week with 3 additional adults to facilitate reading groups. This was in addition to the language arts block that teachers were independently working on during their morning schedules. Brian was able to accommodate funds and work with our goal in mind to make it happen. It is through this process that we as a primary team have been better able to serve all of our students and to ensure that no child is left behind.

While Brian Gander served as our principal at Pringle he was not only a force that guided academics and school improvement but was also passionate about making our Pringle community a better place. If it was good for kids, Brian helped to make it happen. He was often found after hours around the school upgrading or repairing computers, building shelves, helping to chair a committee, working to improve our schools appearance, meeting with concerned parents, participating in school plays, and of course supporting his staff. As a teacher, I have always felt supported by Brian Gander. He has encouraged me to grow professionally and has always held high standards for his teachers.

This past year, Pringle elementary celebrated our 150<sup>th</sup> year as a school. Brian made it a point to gather a committee that included community members, and representatives from both past and present families and staff members. During this time, he co-chaired the construction of a 500 piece tile mural that represented Pringle over the past 150 years. In addition to this, he helped to sculpt and organize community support to purchase three benches and lay tiles to enhance the front of our school. He wanted families and community members to celebrate Pringle and our history and to feel welcomed. As a co-chair on the sesquicentennial committee, Brian Gander was someone I could always count on to support the many activities for the celebration, work with the numerous committees to achieve their goals and to also "tie up" the many loose ends that come along with such a large project.

Brian Gander is an exceptional administrator and principal. His caring nature and professional standards are instrumental in the success of our students. He is dedicated to his profession and committed to children and our community. He is hard working, caring and has a great ability to both see and work towards the "big" picture. Mr. Gander is an administrator who brings a vision to his school, offers support and continues to challenge all of us to be the best we can be. Brian Gander respects both students and staff members and helps to create positive learning environments for his school community. Brian Gander was an asset to our school and will be missed at Pringle.

Please contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,  


Malinda G. Hagerman

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher & Pringle Elementary Teacher Leader W: (503) 399 - 3178 C: (503) 559 - 8874