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To Whom it May Concern:

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I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Miss Michelle Carpenter. Michelle served as my student teacher from June through December of 2015; during that time I got to know Michelle and her musical ability very well and it is my opinion that Miss Carpenter will be an outstanding music educator.

While at Berne Union, Miss Carpenter had the opportunity to work with every level of our instrumental music program, grades five through twelve. I believe that an instructor's ability to adjust her teaching style to accommodate a variety of age groups is crucial to being a successful music teacher. Michelle has demonstrated this ability on a daily basis, and I am very confident that she is very comfortable and effective working with any age group.

Miss Carpenter holds herself to high standards of musicianship and does the same with whatever ensemble she is working with. It was a pleasure to watch as she worked very hard to develop solid classroom management skills. Miss Carpenter sets high expectations for her students' classroom behavior, but has a very friendly, easy-going demeanor that puts pupils at ease. In short, I would describe Michelle's teaching style as being confident, but not condescending, objective driven, yet student-centric and always cognizant of the abilities of the ensemble.

Michelle works very hard to be well prepared for whatever task she has been assigned, and I know Miss Carpenter understands the importance of quality lesson planning. I believe she spent more time in rehearsal preparation than any student teacher I have ever had. However, she also is aware of how and when to adjust her plans if the classroom situation dictates. I know that Miss Carpenter takes time for self-evaluation after rehearsal, a very important skill; additionally, she is very open to constructive feedback and is constantly striving to be a better educator.

Miss Carpenter is exceptionally reliable and responsible, and took her duties here at Berne Union very seriously. In her dealings with students, staff, and parents, Michelle was always professional, and she projects a positive image both in her appearance and speech. Miss Carpenter was very willing to stay and work after the school day had ended, and put in more after school hours than any student teacher I have had in my twenty years. During marching band season, she routinely worked over 70 hours each week, and even stayed a week after the student teaching term had ended to finish the calendar year with our students.

To her credit, Michelle did not approach student teaching as a short-term assignment; she took a sincere interest in the success of our students and program and worked diligently to help us meet our objectives. She began working with our marching band in June, at the very beginning of marching band season. She was very involved in marching band rehearsal planning and execution, and played an essential role in making 2015 one of Berne Union's most successful seasons ever. From this experience, I can say with confidence that Michelle has a great understanding of the multifaceted challenges of planning and rehearsing a competition band over the course of a season, and is armed with strategies and techniques that will enable her to field a successful marching band, be it a competition or show style group.

Quite simply, Michelle Carpenter combines a great mix of natural musicianship and effective teaching skills. She has the talent, passion, and personality to be a very successful music educator, and I know she will go on to do great things with whatever band she works with. If I can be of further assistance by offering greater insight into the talent and ability of Miss Carpenter, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be more than happy to respond to any inquiries you might make.

Sincerely,

