



**ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
*Illinois' first public university*

College of Fine Arts  
School of Music

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November 9, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter of recommendation is on behalf of Dr. Wally Parks who has made application for the Music Education/Director of Bands positions at your College. As Coordinator of Music Education at Illinois State University, I have had the pleasure to work with Dr. Parks for many years, which includes many opportunities to rehearse his band ensembles. Therefore, I believe I can provide a sincere and thorough assessment of his qualifications for your posted vacancy.

Wally Parks has been a very effective and successful music educator during his tenure at Metamora (IL) High School. Through his leadership, the program has evolved into a respected, comprehensive instrumental program that has excelled in all areas of band performance. I have also observed on numerous occasions the strong connection he has developed with all of his students. They have great respect for, and enjoyment in working with Wally. His soft-spoken and nurturing personality is greatly appreciated, and they continuously show their admiration for him.

Wally's band program has received numerous recognitions by the profession including performances at various conferences. Recent examples include performances at the ILMEA state conference, the Super-State Festival at the University of Illinois, and the National Concert Band festival sponsored by Music For All. Dr. Parks has also been recognized through his presentations at music education conferences and publications in various professional journals. Without question, he has earned him the respect of his peers.

While he has been successful in developing a program that has consistently produced fine performances, I have always been impressed with his interest in providing his students a comprehensive musical experience. He enhances the students' experiences through various materials and experiences that provide greater insight into the music they are experiencing. All of his many accomplishments have allowed him to be recognized as a leader in music education for the state of Illinois, including his recent tenure as President of ILMEA District III.

I strongly encourage you to give his application your highest consideration. I believe Wally Parks would be a fine addition to your faculty and provide a significant contribution to your students. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information on this excellent music educator. Best wishes for a successful search.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph Manfred".

Joseph Manfred  
Coordinator of Music Education