

August 19, 2013

To whom it may concern,

I have known Mr. Wood for eight years, through my daughter Angelina Mosher who graduated from Oakridge High School in 2009. He was her teacher for United States History (10th), Government and Economics (11th), and Senior Current Issues (12th). And I can only say positive things about him. He not only has had a great influence on my daughter, but I know he has influenced so many kids in the Oakridge School District.

For example - the first job that my daughter ever had was a paid assistant in Mr. Wood's classroom. She was fifteen years old; she stayed after school and she checked papers, organized his books, cleaned his classroom, for \$8 an hour. I remember her coming home and being so excited about the job, and also coming home and being reprimanded by Mr. Wood for trying to leave too early for soccer practice. He always expected a lot from Angelina. And so did I. I remember stopping by the school often to make sure that she was doing her job and earning her wage.

Another thing - Angelina traveled with Mr. Wood to Washington D.C. for the Close Up Program in her tenth grade year. And that was just the beginning for a great experience for traveling all over the world. When she was in Washington D.C. she met students from all over the country. She became friends with students from Europe and China as well. It was an eye opening experience for her. And going to Washington D.C. wasn't easy for people in the Oakridge District. It was very expensive. I remember how much work it was to raise all of that money and then to get all of those kids to Detroit to fly out to Washington. It was because Mr. Wood who put so much time into organizing the trip so that these kids could go, that it worked. Without his effort we never could have done it.. And it was a life changing experience.

The traveling with Mr. Wood was not only a one time thing. Angelina went to Selma, Alabama with Mr. Wood and twenty of her fellow classmates in 2009. Mr. Wood sponsored all sorts of fundraisers so that any student who wanted to go could go...because Mr Wood wanted all of these kids to have this opportunity. He wanted to be sure that all Oakridge students could have opportunities to see more about the world than only Wolf Lake. And he took her and her friends to Chicago on a number of occasions as well. These trips all helped to make Angelina the confident young woman she is today.

Mr. Wood was an inspiration for Angelina to continue her education; he was instrumental in opening doors for her to reach for a higher education. He made sure that she was comfortable at Michigan State and hooked her up with another Oakridge graduate - Kaily Parks. He made connections for many Oakridge students to stay at colleges with other Oakridge graduates so that they could feel safe. He made it possible for Angelina to feel good about going to Michigan State. He made sure that she would spend time with Kaily, go to class with Kaily, go to the cafeteria with Kaily - he made sure that Angelina knew what things would be like before she made the decision to go there. That was so important for her in order for to be successful at

Michigan State. And he provided this opportunity, not just for Angelina, but any Oakridge student at all sorts of different colleges!

Mr. Wood has also been a great supporter of the kids participating in sports. He supported Angelina at her soccer games, but always reminded her that academics were number one!

Through the years Mr. Wood has continued to support Angelina in college. He visited with the family through football games, and went with myself and my boyfriend Jeff to listen to Angelina's thesis presentation upon her graduation from the James Madison College. Mr Wood helped Angelina as a mentor on her Thesis. And as she traveled in the summers between her studies at Michigan State he kept in touch with her through her journals in Turkey, South Africa, Lebanon, Egypt, Palestine, and Israel. He has been a great mentor for my daughter.

Unfortunately in our school district the way the situation in the world is going around, with the loss of jobs, and people unemployed so many times two parents have to work. Students stay at home without the supervision of a parent, Mr. Wood has been a mentor and a father figure for so many kids in the District. Our community and our School District has been blessed; we owe Mr. Wood for being such a great mentor and good parent that has been their for our children, when they don't have somebody to go to. His doors were always open for anybody either parents and students in the community; I never felt the door was closed for any of us in the community. And many of my friends feel that same way.

Finally, Mr. Wood doesn't stop teaching and learning at the end of the school year. He goes all over the world and he studies and he learns and he takes all of that experience and injects into his students to inspire them. It is then up to them to go on and use that experience in their lives and become a productive citizen.

Today August 19, 2013 my daughter is in Egypt teaching at an International School thanks in large part to this wonderful teacher and mentor. Our community should be thankful for having Mr. Wood in our school district. He pours out his heart to our children; he has invested all this time and energy into our kids and us.

If you have any questions or want to know more about Mr. Wood you can contact me at openwindows05@aol.com.

Sincerely,

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