

August 15, 2013

To whom it my concern: this letter is in regards to Mr. Bob Wood.

My name is Cassie Vandermolen I graduated from Oakridge High School in 2005, and had the experience of having Mr. Wood as a teacher freshman thru senior year. In that time I had probably called him every name in the book, but thinking back eight years later there is only one word that I could really use to describe him, caring. I truly believe that Mr. Wood cares about every student who steps foot in his classroom. He wants them all to have a cause, something they care about as much as he cares about teaching. He knows that not every student he teaches will pass, I was one that failed my freshman year, but I went back and had him thru the rest of high school and I'm glad I did! Mr. Woods teaching methods may be a little unorthodox but he does what needs to be done to reach his students and to prepare them for their future as human beings.

Mr. Woods caring doesn't stop on a student, school, or community level, he's out there trying to change the world and help every person he can! I couldn't think of a better role model for me or any student to have in high school. Weather it was Mr. Wood telling us about his adventures having beer and hotdogs around the country at every ball park or telling us about his European adventures. he didn't just teach where all the rivers and states and countries and capitals where on a map he taught us to go and see them for ourselves to go explore the world for what it is. And as a graduate I have explored a little I went to France and England I did volunteer work in South America, there is so much more that I will do. But I don't believe I would have fully understood the importance of doing what I've done if it wasn't for one teacher who cared enough about our well being as human beings to tell us this is important and you have to make an Impact!

I have been out of high school 8 years if you asked me today what I learned in high school I would tell you "It only takes one person to change the world" and most people would look at me confused by this but this is the best lesson a person can leave high school with. And yes I learned some math, science, English, psychology, but the biggest impact any lesson had on me was that it only takes one person. In the world most people feel small like "I'm only one person" but the truth as taught to me by Mr. Wood is that "YOU ARE ONE PERSON", and even though sometimes you may need help, as ONE person you can change anything! Rosa Parks was only One person, Martin Luther King Jr. was only ONE person, and yet they both played a huge part in change! The lesson really underlies that you must do what you believe should be done. It doesn't matter what you believe in or what you want out of life it only takes you as ONE person to do to achieve your desired result! And as ONE person There is nothing I would love more than to have my child enter Mr. Wood class room and read the stickers on his podium the best one being "Be the change you wish to see in the world" by Ghandi.

There is no teacher who ever challenged me in my own beliefs and in what I thought I knew like Mr. Wood did. He is not just a teacher he is an inspiration! I now teach 5th graders at my church and if they even sort of remember what I have taught them come next year I will be surprised but if they remember eight years after I last teach them I would be honored. Any teacher who reaches, I mean really reaches the students like Mr. Wood does should never have to question his job!

Sincerely,

Cassie Jo Vandermolen (OHS c/o 2005)

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