



# Okoboji Elementary School

708 N Ave., Milford, IA 51351 712.338.2458

Justin Bouse, Principal

Emily Wegner, Counselor

October 28, 2013

To whom it may concern:

It is my privilege to be writing this letter recommending Todd Stevens and his group, *Rock In Prevention*, for any school or organization who is considering a program to visit with children about making positive choices including standing up to bullying behavior.

*Rock In Prevention* visited our school during Character Counts! Week this year. I was extremely impressed with Todd Stevens from the very beginning. He was very organized in arranging for the program and contacted me a couple of times in the fall to communicate details about their arrival at Okoboji Elementary. The program they provided for our kids was wonderful! I appreciated how they created two programs, K-2 and 3-4, to address the different ages of students. Both programs were very engaging and interactive for our students as they were immediately on their feet learning the lyrics to songs. Although the message given to the students was a serious one it was very appropriately delivered. The kids were attentive, but did not get bored by adults lecturing to them. The expression, "We don't do that here!", regarding bullying, hit home and was heard in the hallways that very afternoon by some students after the group had left. The message was sandwiched between some high energy singing and dancing that even allowed for some students to get to go up "on stage" and sing with the group.

Another impressive component of the program involved the follow-up resources that were left for students and staff. The staff was excited to hear there were activities for them to use in the classroom to support the message and the kids were thrilled to receive their very own musical cd of the songs they had just heard and learned!

I was also extremely pleased with how our high school student leaders were incorporated into each of the programs. It is so beneficial for our students to get to meet the high school kids who are truly exceptional role models. The high school students were well prepared and did a wonderful job with our kids!

It is without reservation that I recommend *Rock in Prevention* and look forward to having them return to Okoboji Elementary in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Justin Bouse".

Justin Bouse  
Elementary Principal