

Kennesaw Mountain High School

Cobb County School District

"A community with a passion for learning"



Kevin Daniel, Ph.D.
Principal

April 2, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

In my 22 years of teaching I have had the honor of working alongside many magnificent teachers. Kevin Deck is one of the best I have come across. He began his teaching career with me at South Cobb High school and immediately proved to everyone how qualified he was. Most of us, as new teachers, struggle with the same things and learn from veterans who are willing to help. Kevin walked into the classroom as if he had been there for years and was able to deal with the struggles with little help from the outside. He was always willing to listen to any suggestions, but he had a knack for teaching that most new teachers lack. His students respected him and immediately recognized his passion for teaching. His love for the subject motivates his students and creates a desire in his students to learn math.

One sign of a good teacher is the ability to teach all levels. Kevin walked in to his first job teaching AP Calculus. This is almost unheard of for a brand new teacher. Not only was he very qualified with the material, but he immediately bonded with the students and developed a great relationship with them. In addition to the calculus class he taught a general math class. These two classes are as opposite as night and day. He had the same respect and performance from the students in general math as he did in calculus. This speaks for Kevin's teaching skills and expectations. When I was named the department head for a new school in Cobb County I accepted the position under one condition....Kevin Deck had to be able to go with me. Thank goodness the new principal agreed and we made the move together.

Throughout the years he has sharpened his teaching skills and has become a master teacher. He is very involved in committees and activities which promote school growth. Several years ago I decided to give up my position as math department head. I felt that my department needed to move forward in some areas I was somewhat uncomfortable leading them in. Technology had become an integral part of the curriculum and I was lacking in my knowledge of what was most effective in the classroom. This, along with several other things, led me to resign. When I approached my principal with the news I told her that if she wanted this department to move in the right direction she needed to make Kevin my replacement.

Fortunately, she agreed and I have worked with him as my department head for the past three years. The department has grown tremendously and Kevin has done a wonderful job.

I cannot express to you how lucky you will be if Kevin becomes a part of your faculty. He can teach all levels and will become a vital part of your school's growth. He will embrace every opportunity to allow students to develop an appreciation for math and will provide them with the resources to be successful in any career they choose. They will respect him as a teacher and most of all as a person. He will bring many ideas and suggestions that every teacher in your school will benefit from. Regardless of the criteria for the type of teacher you are seeking make sure you do not miss the opportunity to make Kevin a part of your faculty. We are losing a fabulous teacher and a vital part of our department. I can only hope that you have the opportunity to work with him and experience for yourself what I have attempted to describe in words. Thank you for your time and contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information. My email address is maria.travitz@cobbk12.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Travitz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "M".

Maria Travitz
Mathematics Teacher
Kennesaw Mountain High School