



School District of New Richmond

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To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Raymond "Sketch" Gustafson. In my short time of knowing him he has already had a major impact on Hillside Elementary students. I look forward to getting to know him better by working together more in the future.

Sketch came to our school on March 27th, 2009 to talk to ninety of our fourth grade students. We had just started our flipbook project and some students were struggling with creating characters for their flipbooks. Sketch gave us a great background story of his life and emphasized how art helped him through his tough times. The students then began to draw themselves in cartoon form the way that Sketch demonstrated. At the end of the presentation Sketch stayed and signed every fourth graders' drawing. This really inspired them to be excited about art and drawing. I still have students tearing the corner of their paper to make it "not perfect" like he told them he always does. After Sketch's presentation the characters created by the students for their flipbooks became much better. Finally, we put up a "Sketch" display with pictures from the presentation, some of Sketch's cartoon strips, and some drawings by students.

Sketch also created the logo of a tiger for Hillside Elementary, which was then put on t-shirts and sold. The sales from these shirts helped put money toward and outdoor classroom for all students to appreciate. Sketch created a drawing for the art room that included a motivational saying for the students.

I would highly recommend Sketch for any artwork you need or as a motivational speaker. He has been a joy to work with and would be a great asset to any company.

Sincerely,

Michael Pike
K-5 Art Teacher
Hillside Elementary