



# Tantasqua Regional High School

BRIMFIELD • BROOKFIELD • HOLLAND • STURBRIDGE • WALES

319 Brookfield Road  
Fiskdale, Massachusetts 01518

TELEPHONE (508) 347-9301

STEVEN B. BLISS  
PRINCIPAL

LEIGH JOSEPH  
DEAN OF STUDENTS

PETER S. DOBROWOLSKI  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

CHRISTINA PELOUZE  
GUIDANCE DIRECTOR

April 9, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

We wish to offer our professional recommendation for Stephen Bliss, who served as our high school principal for three years, from fall of 2006 until spring of 2009.

Until Stephen Bliss took the helm and challenged us to define the role of visual arts education at Tantasqua, the capabilities of our art teaching staff and the value of our visual arts program were often taken for granted. With Mr. Bliss' administrative support, visual art at Tantasqua gained its voice across our district and won new recognition for its service in our learning community. During Mr. Bliss' tenure we established a student art gallery, a permanent installation including display spaces spanning one hundred feet of hallway. Tantasqua's annual art education showcase, All Arts Day, flourished in response to Mr. Bliss' challenge that we build the event around time in learning; we took his challenge a step further by including art-related relationships with other non-art fields of learning. All Arts Day 2009 will be extraordinary, thanks in large part to his support and his administrative skills.

Stephen Bliss is an effective communicator. When we talk with him, we recognize that he listens and makes an effort to understand our ideas and concerns. Tantasqua did not before experience methodical, clear messages about important bulletins or upcoming events to compare with the timely pronouncements and weekend updates Mr. Bliss routinely shared with students, staff and community over the phone, the Internet and in public speaking.

Stephen Bliss is a quick learner. Not professing to be perfect, Mr. Bliss constantly assesses his participation in the educational process. He has visibly grown professionally in three years as our principal. We regret he could not remain with us to serve another three years.

A school system which hires him will benefit from having Stephen Bliss on its staff. We feel privileged to have experienced Mr. Bliss as our leader. We are pleased to offer our support for Mr. Bliss, to receive an assignment in administration where he may continue to develop professionally and lead another school district on its path to success.

We thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Thompson, Patricia O'Brien & Paul Metcalf  
Tantasqua High School's Visual Art Department