



HARTFORD PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL
EXCELLENCE FOR ALL, BY ALL
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November 30, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Almost 11 years ago an extraordinary person walked into my life in the form of a co-worker, world language teacher and most important, a true friend.

Yes, I'm talking about Richard de Meij. We started working together at Hartford Public High School's Nursing Academy almost 11 years ago. We are a mutual admiration society for each other's approach to teaching at Hartford High.

Richard teaches language to our students in a worldly and thoughtful way that makes learning a language fun and relevant to his students' lives.

Walk into Richard's classroom and there is Spanish or French language music playing, or students learning the lyrics to the songs they hear, or students learning a new folk dance.

On one wall of Richard's classroom, there is a framed poster with visuals showing people in various professions and the corresponding Spanish names for these professions. On another wall, there are posters showing countries where either Spanish or French is the spoken language, and always on the white board, there are great visuals and words to reinforce what Richard is teaching that day in his class. Today, I learned about the "fly swatter game" where students have to "swat" the picture that relates to the Spanish or French word that Richard calls out in class.

Richard is fair and honest and he has always maintained the highest expectations for his students to have success in his classes.

Just walking into Richard's classroom it becomes obvious that he embodies all the qualities that make one a teacher of the year. I would say every year!

Sincerely,

Julie Drechsler

School Vision: Hartford Public High School is a learner-centered environment where adults and students thrive in an equitable culture of high expectations that comprehensively prepares every student for college and career success.