

WILLIAM H. HALL HIGH SCHOOL

975 NORTH MAIN STREET
WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06117
232-4561



NATIONAL EXEMPLARY SCHOOL

June 30, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write a letter on behalf of Mr. Richard de Meij. I have known Mr. de Meij as a world language supervisor for the years that he has been in West Hartford. Although I have not been the formal evaluator for Mr. de Meij, I know by reputation and through collegial conversations of the commitment and excellence he brings to the classroom. He is a dedicated professional who believes in the highest of standards for teaching and learning.

Being a speaker of many languages including French and Spanish, Mr. de Meij incorporates the cultural portion of language study as a natural adjunct to his lessons and experience. The language has a natural context embedded in history, people and places. His students have the opportunity to make connections to their cultural reality, compare to others and practice their second language. They also thrive from the modeling of authentic enunciation and intonation of the languages he teaches.

Mr. de Meij has contributed his ideas and his talents on the state level participating in professional conferences as a lecturer and presenter. He attends annually the national conference on the teaching of languages and again sponsors sessions on linguistics, creative ideas for students learning and incorporating technology in the world language classroom. Mr. de Meij always returns from such trips inspired and willing to share with the faculty information from the conference that he felt would enhance our program. He played a major role in the planning for Year of Languages 2005.

Mr. de Meij is collaborative with other members of the department in curriculum mapping and assessments. During professional development time and summer curriculum writing, he has participated at a significant level. Mr. de Meij understands performance-based assessment and designs effective tools for use in the middle school classroom. He integrates concepts and skills to create an end of year assessment that is comprehensive, differentiated and interesting for the students. He emphasizes communication as the basic goal for instruction and evaluates his students with rubrics that reflect the ACTFL standards for proficiency.

If I can be of further assistance, please call me at Hall High School, (860) 232-4561 ext. 1222.
Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lucy C. Cartland".
Lucy C. Cartland

World Language Supervisor
West Hartford Public Schools