

George -
Congratulations on
receiving this letter. You should
be proud, as you are well deserving.
Recognition like this always feels
good, so enjoy it!!
-Edt

Jack and Susan Bartley
515 Hyde Park Circle
Lincoln University, PA 19352

March 13, 2008

Mr. George Allen
Fred S. Engle Middle School
107 School House Rd.
West Grove, PA 19390

Dear Mr. Allen:

Not feeling the need to come in for a conference to discuss student concerns, but wanting to come in to just talk prompted me to write this letter, and to not wait until the end of the year to do so!

You are an absolutely exceptional teacher. Colin's response to your class is the most energized I've ever seen him about a school subject. Yes, you have help in that you're teaching about interesting times, but it's your teaching technique that is making it interesting. You keep the kids engaged, challenged, thinking, and most of all, having fun while learning. It's so very obvious that you understand this age (the students, not history), and have the patience and talent to engage them in a way I have yet to see in some of Colin's best teachers.

A few months ago, I asked Colin to sit and watch "Gladiator" with me. Since that was pulling him off the computer, there were lots of moans and groans. However, the first scene was one you had shown in class. He sat right down and started talking about what was going on with the different elements of the battle, and he stayed there for the whole 3 hour movie. Every so often he would talk about something that he'd learned in class that was being depicted in the movie.

More of our dinner conversations have been about something you discussed in class that day than any other subject. These questions often come up out of the blue, which fascinates me as it's obvious that Colin has been sitting there quietly thinking about something that was discussed in your class.

Overall, what I'm thrilled with as a parent is that not only is Colin enjoying the class, but it is stimulating him to think deeper about history and society, and to explore learning. It really is a gift for a teacher to be able to generate that spark in students. Jack and I both talked about nominating you for Teacher of the Year (or whatever that was) but it passed without that happening, and I do feel bad about that. So, I at least wanted to pass along my thanks and my sincere respect for what you are doing and how well you are doing it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan M. Bartley", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Susan M. Bartley

cc: Mr. Robert Fraser, Principal, Fred S. Engle Middle School

p.s. – I know it goes without saying, but don't let Colin know I wrote this! He'd be mortified!