

Arizona State University

College of Education
Division of Curriculum and Instruction
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To Whom It May Concern:

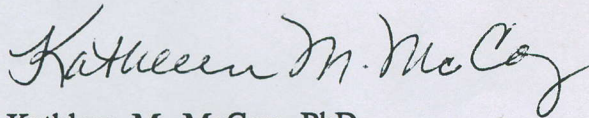
I am writing this letter of support for Joyce West from the perspective of a parent, student and professional educator. First as a parent, I heartily support Ms. West's approach to music instruction. She worked with both of my children, Elizabeth age 8 and Patrick age 5, at a time when they were feeling defeated about music. Both children had been enrolled in programs designed for their respective ages, but not for their skill levels or interests. Ms. West, through much patience and instructional insight, brought both children today to where they enjoy learning and playing music on the keyboard. Ms. West was particularly inventive with my son. When she first met Patrick, he refused to even approach a keyboard. Ms. West played a variety of musical games with him to encourage him to enjoy music again. Ms. West individualized her approach to match the strengths of both children.

Secondly as a parent, I naturally was involved in my children's musical development. Unfortunately I had never had keyboard instruction. As I watched Ms. West instruct my children, I also became more interested in learning to play the keyboard. I am now a student of Ms. West's, too. She has guided my instruction in such a way that I am not only learning for myself, but am also able to assist my children in a more educated manner. Just as Ms. West adjusted her teaching style to meet the differing needs of my children, so too has she adjusted her style to fit my instructional needs. As an adult learner, I have appreciated Ms. West's approach very much.

Finally, as a professional educator, I recognize and appreciate the variety of instructional techniques employed by Ms. West. She is knowledgeable in her field and always prepared for each lesson. Ms. West is professional, yet presents a very warm and open manner when instructing her students. She appears to genuinely like teaching and her positive attitude is reflected in the skills of her students.

If you have any questions or need further elaboration, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. McCoy, PhD
Associate Professor