



WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY
Quad Cities

April 19, 2012

Mr. Kuffel, Superintendent
Community Unit District #228
209 South College Avenue
Geneseo, IL 61254

Dear Mr. Kuffel,

I wish to take this opportunity to commend your middle school administration and selected faculty members. On April 17, Deb Wagner, Brian Hofer, Amy Feely, Jill Schauland, Dean Johnson, Jeanne Brucher, Diane Olson, Jeanne Anderson, and Matt DeBaene teamed together to host my Middle Level Education class at Geneseo Middle School. Mr. Hofer graciously took us on a tour and narrated the layout of the school and how it is designed to reflect the middle school concept. Ms. Schauland discussed the transition from elementary to middle school and issues related to advisory and the role of the homeroom. Mr. Johnson featured the district's technology initiatives and parental outreach. Ms. Olson and Ms. Anderson provided insight regarding the concept of interdisciplinary teaming, with an emphasis on collaborative interdisciplinary units. Ms. Feely presented a wide array of counselor applications designed to meet the developmental needs of transescents. Ms. Brucher highlighted the key role of a Library Information Specialist and how she works collaboratively with the teachers and students. Mr. DeBaene provided an administrative perspective and how he actively involves the teachers in the decision making process. Ms. Wagner coordinated the entire evening and also shared the team's Medieval interdisciplinary unit. Needless to say, my students enjoyed the evening very much. I received many favorable comments about your school and the speakers.

Many of the hallmark concepts of middle school theory, covered in this course, were brought alive during the visit to your district. My students could see and hear how these concepts are applied in the "real world" of middle school. From an instructor's perspective, it is often difficult to teach certain concepts in discrete fashion. For example, my students were able to experience a positive school climate as they toured the building.

Finally, I commend the Geneseo School District and you for having administrative and faculty members whom are willing to spend time sharing their expertise with future educators. I have enjoyed working with many of your teachers, as graduate students, here at Western Illinois University-Quad Cities.

Sincerely,

LaVerne Logan, Curriculum & Instruction