



St. Lawrence Elementary School

1020 Carson Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45205
(513) 921-4996
www.stlawrenceparish.org

January 23, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

It has been my pleasure to work with Mark Pfau and the New School Technology Initiative. His and the Initiative's work has brought appropriate, state-of-the-art technology to our school, located in East Price Hill.

St. Lawrence is a very diverse community of learners: Spanish speaking students and parents, learning disabled students, autistic students, and advanced students, all of whom live in poverty. Our cultural snapshot is 38% caucasian, 32% Latino, 12% Asian, with the remaining 18% from multiracial families. Few families have internet access at home, and rely on our St. Lawrence School to provide the necessary connection to information for 21st Century learning.

Happily, Mr. Pfau has filled a significant need for St. Lawrence to have updated technology: our aging computer lab was unable to adequately run some of our most crucial learning programs, and with only 26 seats, could only accommodate one class at a time. With the purchase of more than 50 Chromebooks, 25 Chromebase Computers, 20 Windows desktop computers, large-screen displays and ChromeCast dongles, we can now proudly boast that we are nearing a true 1:1 device environment. What this means is our staff has flexibility in choosing how to integrate technology into each and every classroom, for each and every student. Furthermore, this allows us to utilize online assessments and tools, providing real time and immediate feedback to drive learning. This is significant!

With the high stakes state tests pushing to an online format, we can now receive immediate results and hone our learning to show adequate yearly growth and progress. Our native Spanish speaking students can utilize the wealth of online language tools to eliminate the language impediments and challenges it brings. St. Lawrence's world is becoming at once larger and smaller thanks to the technology the New School Technology Initiative has provided.

Mr. Pfau is wonderfully easy to work with; he asks questions, and then seeks good pricing and value for each and every dollar invested in a school. Most of the technology was delivered to our school, and we had no difficulty in setting it up.

On one occasion, I had the opportunity to drive Mr. Pfau to BestBuy to pick up a large format display that was too big for a car; I own a pickup truck. It was during this trip that Mark and I spoke candidly about schools, technology and education. His belief that technology be available to each and every student, especially the underserved is admirable. He seeks to close the achievement gap and level the playing field for all schools, one school at a time. One can tell that Mark truly lives and loves what he



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can do for schools. As a 27-year educator, it is most rewarding to forge relationships with outside partners and establish them as stakeholders.

I have recommended two schools located near St. Lawrence who could benefit from the New School Technology Initiative's support. It will be a true pleasure to see this organization's positive and most effective influence on our children who most need it.

I hope this letter has accurately expressed my gratitude and humility at the New School Technology Initiative's support of our school. Should you have any questions, or need any further information, please feel free to contact me at St. Lawrence.

Most Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rich Klus".

Rich Klus, Principal
St. Lawrence Elementary School
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