

## **PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY**

Crystal Rufenacht graduated from Towson University with a Bachelor of Science in Music Education in 2009. She obtained her Master of Music in Music Education from The Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in 2016 and achieved National Board Certification in 2017. Crystal provides professional development for teachers at county, state and national levels and provides leadership for the HCPS National Board Candidate Support Network. Crystal advocates locally through community forums, council and board meetings for adequate funding and resources and seeks to build relationships with local leaders and decision makers.

## **Resume**

### **Education**

- May 2016                      Master of Music in Music Education, The Peabody  
Institute of the Johns Hopkins University
- January 11, 2009            Bachelor of Science in Music Education, Cum Laude  
PreK-12 Certification. Towson University
- May 2004                      Graduate of Fallston High School in Fallston, MD.

### **Certifications**

- August 2018                 Administrator I Certification, Towson University
- December 2017              National Board Teacher Certification

### **Experience**

- August 2010-Present       Instrumental Music Teacher  
Harford County Public Schools  
Church Creek Elementary and Lisby-Hillsdale Elementary
- July 2011- Present         Regional Awana Ministry Team Member  
Training Teachers and Leaders (Children's Ministry)
- August 2012-Present       Children's Ministry Director  
Prince of Peace Baptist Church
- July 2015-July 2016       Harford County Public Schools Summer Music Camp  
Instructor
- March 2010- June 2010     Instructional Assistant  
Harford County Public Schools  
Havre de Grace Middle School

### **Leadership**

- 2018-present                HCPS Office of Professional Development- National Board

Certification Teacher Support Network Leader

2014-present  
System-Based Music and General Education Professional  
Development Presenter/Facilitator  
Harford County Public Schools

2018, 2017, 2015  
National Association for Music Education National  
In-Service Conference Presenter

2018  
Maryland Music Educators Association  
Conference Presenter

2011-Present  
All-State Band Auditions  
Flute Judge/Administrative Planning Committee

**Awards**

2004-2008  
Towson University Music Department Scholarship

2007  
C. James Velie Memorial Scholarship- Flute Performance

2007  
Spirit of Towson Award- Towson Marching Band

2006  
Spirit of Towson Award- Towson Marching Band

2005  
Member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars

2004  
Chris Terry Scholarship  
Harford County Public Schools

2004  
Harco Credit Union Scholarship

## **Part III – Personal Statement**

I am seeking election to the Board as the Teacher Member because I am deeply committed to ensuring all students have access to a high-quality education that prepares them to be successful in life. The vision of the Board is in complete alignment with my vision for all students who will attend public schools in Maryland.

I am a product of the Maryland Public School System and now teach in the same county that I graduated. I have always had the benefit of a supportive family and have many wonderful memories from my time in school. I learned as I began teaching, that many students did not have the same experience or supports and that for some students, a difficult home life paired with difficulty in school created little desire for success in school or life. I have seen children rise against many odds when provided a high-quality education by adults who truly care for them. I know there are many dedicated educators who do this important work every day and I want to ensure the policies and provisions that guide teaching and learning in Maryland support each of the complex and vital components listed in the mission of the Board.

In order for each child to have the opportunity to fully realize his or her potential, educators need increased opportunity to build relationships with students and support with accurately assessing their needs and ensuring high-quality teaching takes place in every classroom, every day. Board policies that impact academic accountability systems and teacher and leader evaluation systems should reflect members have referenced research and promote data collection and analysis that is reliable and valid. The Board also needs to halt any aspects of current systems that are proven ineffective. As a teacher leader, I have spoken up and redirected the decision-making process when data doesn't adequately inform a decision. I have seen inaccurate teacher and administrator evaluation ratings that over or under-represent performance. Data alignment and analysis are among my areas of strength. I will ensure specific actions are recommended that will provide the greatest impact on learning and achievement.

I have also seen firsthand, the importance of disciplinary policies that balance teaching desired behavior and enforcing consequences. We need compassion for the child in crisis, but we need to act to stop children from being hurt and we need to better partner with parents. We have many opportunities to get to know our community and partner to provide the best opportunities for our schools. From community organizations, to colleges, to those in government who provide funding and other opportunities for partnership. Our counties vary in their current infrastructure standings. I am committed to working with districts to strengthen their infrastructure and ensuring they have the resources needed to evaluate and analyze the best solutions to meet their needs. I greatly value hearing from all stakeholders and commit to increasing opportunities for input and ensuring we provide these opportunities in the ways our community most desires to communicate with us.

**CHURCH CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**4299 Church Creek Road  
Belcamp, Maryland 21017  
Telephone: 410-273-5550**

**Mr. Harley J. Main**  
*Principal*

**Jeanna Gentile**  
*Assistant Principal*

October 7, 2019

To whom it may concern,

Please allow this letter to serve as a recommendation for Crystal Rufenacht to be selected as a teacher member candidate on the State Board of Education. Ms. Rufenacht has demonstrated a strong desire to grow her leadership capacity over the past 2 school years by participating in several educational leadership programs within Church Creek Elementary School and Harford County Public Schools. Crystal participates on several teams to benefit students, teachers, as well as the school community. In her role within each of the school leadership teams Ms. Rufenacht demonstrates a strong work ethic, and a desire to improve practices for all stakeholders. I believe that Ms. Rufenacht to be a strong candidate to participate on the State Board of Education in the role of Teacher.

Sincerely,

Harley Main  
Principal

10/7/19

Dear State Board of Education,

I am writing this letter of recommendation for Ms. Crystal Rufenacht. I fully support Ms. Rufenacht for The Teacher Board of Education Member. I know that she would be an exceptional, active, and well prepared member.

While working with Ms. Rufenacht, on The Church Creek Elementary Goal Team, I had the pleasure of seeing how helpful, hardworking, and insightful she is as a person. I know that she will be an attribute to The State Board. She is professional and kind. She focuses on making education the very best for our staff and students.

She is a great leader who has true compassion for each child's individual needs and talents. As an instrumental music teacher, she is very gifted with managing a large amount of people and great responsibilities. She is eloquent and is comfortable with speaking in front of large crowds. She is very well organized and is an exceptional team player.

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Ms. Crystal Rufenacht for The State Board of Education Teacher Member.

I know that she will serve the people of Maryland well and to the best of her abilities.

Sincerely,

Ms. Dawn Johnson MAT

Science Facilitator

SPA Team/Unified Arts Leader

Church Creek Elementary School

September 26, 2019

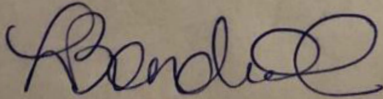
To Whom It May Concern:

Crystal Rufenacht is beginning the second year teaching my son in her band class. As a teacher she is knowledgeable yet patient; with just the right amount of constructive criticism to guide students while maintaining their motivation and interest. The progress made between October and December (when the first concert is held) is nothing short of a miracle. Xavier is lucky to have her as his band teacher, and I have seen growth in all areas of his schooling as a direct result of her work with him.

Crystal is not only a great classroom teacher; she is also active in the larger school community. Crystal volunteers with the other National Board-Certified teachers in the county to help others through the process. To do this she volunteers her own time on evenings or weekends to guide others on improving and reflecting on their practices in the national board process. It is in this way that she impacts not only the students in her own classroom, but she also improves the lives of students throughout the district via coaching other teachers in their practice.

Crystal Rufenacht understands the roles and responsibilities of teachers better than any other in the profession as a direct result of her work in the district with national board candidates as well as her activism with our local union. She meets the highest standards of teaching in her own classroom as evidenced by her own National Board Certification as well as the results she obtains with her students. I recommend Crystal Rufenacht as the teacher representative on the State Board of Education primarily as a parent, but also as a teacher myself who understands the importance of an authentic and educated voice on this body.

Sincerely,



Leigh Anne Bondrole M.A. NBCT  
Mother and Language Arts Teacher  
Edgewood High School