

Dear Mrs. McMichael,

The year is finally over. I can hardly believe it. I learned so much and yet the year seems as if it flew by. I am going to miss school, but I know I'll enjoy the summer.

I just wanted to write this letter to thank you for being such a wonderful teacher. Physics is not easy to understand, and even more difficult to teach. Your preparedness this year, and your thorough understanding of everything helped me so much. When you taught even the most difficult of concepts, I always came away with a solid understanding of what you explained. I must admit that I was extremely nervous about this course beforehand. I, like most people, assumed that physics was this impossible thing to understand. This year I learned that physics is difficult, but can be understood. I also think it helped me to know that a woman could be so successful with them too.

Thank you so much Mrs. McMichael. I was so fortunate to have you for a teacher this year, and I fully attribute any success I had in your class to your excellent teaching ability. I'll look forward to seeing you around next year, and possibly even getting help with AP Physics. Have a wonderful and relaxing summer, that is if your suns will allow it! Thank you so much again.

Sincerely your student,

~ Megan Meutin

Susan Page Penza
218 Wandle Avenue
Bedford, Ohio 44146

Mr. Wayne Blankenship, Assistant Superintendent
Nordon Hills City Schools
9370 Olde Eight Road
Northfield, Ohio 44067

15 June, 2002

Dear Mr. Blankenship,

My tenth grade daughter was a student in Mrs. Barb McMichael's honors physics class during the 2001-2002 school year. I cannot begin to tell you how impressed I was as a parent and as a teacher with the effort, the enthusiasm, and the concern for each and every student that Mrs. McMichael showed all year long:

Mrs. McMichael was available every day for extra help. She deliberately had kids start homework problems during the last few minutes of class so that she could see who was struggling and needed extra attention.


On Open House Night last September, Barb must have "read" those expressions of terror on some of our faces as parents. She re-assured us that a big part of physics is teaching kids how to think, to problem solve, to apply math and science concepts after careful reading and re-reading the problem. She made it clear that she was there to help every student; no student would fail who was willing to work and to avail himself/herself to the extra help that was always available.

Even though Barb has two small children to ^{get} off to school, she held special 7:15 A.M. sessions on the mornings of tests and quizzes. The kids attended these sessions because it helped them solidify concepts and review. But as a wise mom and veteran teacher, Barb also held these sessions because it helped kids manage test anxiety, and it reminded them that their teacher wanted them to be successful.

Mrs. McMichael very quickly "sized up" the entering skill levels of her physics students. She made sure that lab partners were fairly distributed, so that the kids with special "science gifts and talents" were expected to help out lab partners who were less adept.

And in closing, I want to thank Mrs. McMichael for her warmth, her patience, and her sense of humor in dealing with adolescents. Her consistently upbeat attitude and enthusiasm for her chosen field of expertise is contagious. I am extremely grateful to Barb for going the extra mile for every one of her students each and every day.

Sincerely,


Ms. Penza