



Dear STEM Selection Committee,

When I first interviewed Stephanie Schinnerer for a math position at Bowman Middle School in the summer of 2006, she had already come highly recommended from various sources. "She will really make a difference with Bowman students," exhorted one source. "She will have such a positive impact on other teachers," exclaimed another. After the interview, I called her current principal for a reference. I remember distinctly her comments. In essence, she stated that her school was a perennial award winning campus in the community. Her school consistently attracted top flight teachers. Stephanie was her top math teacher in a building packed with outstanding math teachers. Such lofty commentary was destined to create higher than possible expectations. As I reflect back three years later, it is accurate to say Ms. Schinnerer has exceeded these expectations.

Upon entering Ms. Schinnerer's classroom, the warm feeling tones envelopes your soul. Stephanie's love of children blankets the air and creates an atmosphere of dignifying mutual respect and comforting safety. Her soft, caring voice stands in sharp contrast to the vibrant walls festooned with student work. Her caring, "can do" spirit seems infectious as students remain hopefully on task pioneering the difficult world of fractions, decimals, and probability. While none of this at first glance seems exceptional, the awe in this classroom is that she accomplishes this with a room full of dependant learners. While 65% of Bowman learners come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, almost 80% are classified as below grade level in their mathematics cognition. To create a classroom of hope and belief when they have historically struggled with math requires an exceptional teacher.

A more subtle but powerful impact Ms. Schinnerer has made at Bowman has been on the adult community. Parents are inspired and informed by her weekly newsletter which keeps them informed and excited about their child's math class. What an inspiring way to keep parents involved in their child's life, math performance and potential career ambitions than to create a frequently read chronicle of life in the world of mathematics! Colleagues are also inspired by Stephanie's "leadership through example". Her love of children and dedication to our campus improvement serve to bring out the best in all of us.

Bowman proudly presents Stephanie Schinnerer as our Texas Instruments STEM candidate. Ms. Schinnerer personifies everything possible in promoting mathematics and student success at Bowman Middle School.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George King".

George King, principal
Bowman Middle School