



HOME OF THE COUGARS

Grady A. Brown Elementary School

1100 New Grady Brown School Rd.

Hillsborough, NC 27278

Phone: (919) 732-6138

Fax: (919) 644-2800

Christopher Marks, Principal

Kimberly Griffis, Assistant Principal

To: South Carolina Arts Commission

April 4, 2022

Re: Mr. Charles Pettee

Dear SCAC Directors,

I was pleased to hear that you are considering professional musician, Charles Pettee, as a returning candidate for the South Carolina Arts Directory where he will find opportunities for family and educational performances and in-school residencies. I would like to offer my support for that decision with a few words about his ability to perform, educate, and connect with students, particularly as these relate to a classroom/residency situation.

First, Mr. Pettee's skill as a performance artist is superb. His talents both as a singer and a player of multiple instruments allows the lesson's message to be heard and enjoyed on different platforms. It gives students a variety of opportunities to learn and engage while Charles works to include every student. His knowledge of music and his awareness that some of his classroom audience may have never heard the genres he is presenting, are addressed with sensitivity and even help mold his presentations. Charles continually shows a level of confidence and encouragement when inviting students to be a valued part of the learning experience.

Second, Mr. Pettee's attention to detail and preparation is outstanding. He works directly with teachers to provide a mix of historic images and videos to support the lessons and he understands the pacing necessary for keeping students fully engaged. I have had the pleasure of working with Charles for multiple years now. While it would be easy for him to deliver the same "pre-packaged" unit each year, Charles has re-shaped each new visit's focus around a solid framework of live performances, musical history, social awareness and yes, even entertainment. All of this provides a unique chance for many students to find and share their own voice and make positive connections to their culture, their community and their world beyond the classroom.

On a personal note, I have had the opportunity to invite a number of speakers, performers and professionals into our school over the years. It isn't always easy to find someone with the right mix of message, management, and methodology, but Mr. Pettee has a way of getting kids excited about learning. Students always look forward to his next lesson and often can be heard singing or humming tunes from them long after Mr. Pettee's time with them has passed.

Simply put, Charles Pettee is an exceptional educational artist and would be an excellent choice for the SC Arts Directory. Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Will Owens
4th Grade Teacher
Grady A. Brown Elementary