



May 18, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Jason Valleau for any teaching position related to music education. Having had the privilege of supervising him closely for the past year, I can confidently attest to his exceptional skills, dedication, and passion for teaching music. Jason is a member of our Integrated Studies department where he teaches music to students from kindergarten to grade 12, as well as leadership courses to grades 7-10.

Jason has been an invaluable asset to Calgary Academy and has consistently demonstrated a remarkable ability to inspire students to develop their musical talents. He has an exceptional understanding of, and ability to play, various musical instruments and genres, enabling him to provide comprehensive and engaging instruction to students of all ages and skill levels. His experience as a professional musician allows him to bring authentic learning experiences to his students.

What sets Jason apart is his unique ability to create a positive and nurturing learning environment. He understands that each student has different learning needs and tailors his approach accordingly, ensuring that every student receives personalized attention and guidance. At our school, students enter Jason's music class with a wide range of experience, varying from many years of classical training to having never taken music at all. Jason was able to have all students engage in performances by rewriting and transcribing various musical pieces to suit the ability level of his individual students. He connects frequently with parents and caregivers and invites them to see how the students have grown through mini concerts. His passion and dedication are unrivaled. He has grown our music program and fostered a love for music from so many students.

Beyond the classroom, Jason has been actively involved in organizing and leading various music-related events. His leadership students planned and organized two full school music festivals, complete with food and an artisan market. Additionally, Jason has been critical in our work towards Truth and Reconciliation. He has ties to the local Indigenous community, and he created a connection between our school and the community through music and drumming. For our senior high production of "Back to the 80s," Jason's music students acted as the on-stage band, performing over 25 different songs, and bringing an authentic feel to the performance, all under his guidance. For all his work in the classroom and as part of the school community, Calgary Academy awarded Jason an Exemplary Practice Award this year.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly recommend Jason as a music educator. His remarkable teaching abilities, genuine passion for music, and dedication to student development make him an exceptional candidate for any teaching position. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information or have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cameron MacDonald".

**Cameron MacDonald**

Assistant Principal – Teacher Growth

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