

CROSSROADS SCHOOL

FOR ARTS & SCIENCES

Recommendation for Dr. Jerry Weichman

Fall 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

We were recently very pleased to host adolescent psychologist, Dr. Jerry Weichman as he spoke to our 10 – 12th grade orientations. For the last few years at Crossroads, the administration has been grappling with the issue of how to make orientations more meaningful and valuable for our students; a way to set a positive tone for the school year. We received word of Dr. Weichman's powerful speaking engagements from administrators at the Sage Hill School in Orange County, CA. He definitely proved to be a successful choice as he helped our students to define personal goals and frame the year in a constructive way. If you are looking for a motivational speaker who can address various hot button issues for teenagers such as good health and exercise, organizational skills, substance abuse, stress reduction, and self-esteem then you will find Dr. Weichman to be the best choice. He is a pleasure to work with; reliable, appropriate, and immensely hilarious. We were thrilled to bring him to our back-to-school programs.

Dr. Weichman is a tremendous speaker, able to capture a discerning adolescent audience with great ease and confidence. From the minute he began his speech on our campus, he presented his inspirational story in an engaging and entertaining fashion. Our students were able to relax and absorb his message without feeling that they were hearing someone that was overly condescending or preachy. He recounts scenes from his own challenging childhood with intense humor, and fills students with hope and encouragement as they learn how many obstacles he overcame in order to become so successful at such an early age. The experience he related of making an active choices, such as how to react to bullies, peer and parental pressure was very enlightening for our students. We were impressed with his ability to interact and relate to them in a manner that was simultaneously hip, modern, intelligent, and professional. Many of our students commented afterwards on how comfortable they felt listening to him because he seemed to speak their language and the delivery of his message was clear. His candor and openness during his speech was clearly evidenced by the comfort our students had asking personal questions about his family background and young adult struggles and comparing it to their own. Clearly his words were relevant and applicable to an adolescent's everyday life.

As a final note, not only did our students receive the benefit from hearing Dr. Weichman's talk, but our entire faculty and administrative staff sat in on his presentations. Since the school year began, many teachers and administrators consistently refer to his speech during class, assemblies, and meetings as a way to remind the students about the productive tone and agenda he set in the beginning of the year, such as staying organized, healthy, and keeping their perspective. Unlike many speakers, who come in, deliver a message, and leave without an afterthought, it was very comforting to know that Dr. Weichman would be accessible to our students and gave each student his personal contact information. I know that our students and school staff will continue to use him as a resource because of his genuine warmth and friendliness, and for lack of a better word, his realness. I really appreciate his contributions towards helping our students start the school year off on the right foot.

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It is my pleasure to serve as a reference for Dr. Jerry Weichman for anyone looking for quality and rewarding presentation. He is highly effective speaker, who is ready for any type of talk relating to adolescent and family issues; in addition he is able to gear his program towards the needs of his audience. From humorous to inspiring, he offers a speech unlike many others. There will undoubtedly be a high demand for a reliable, appropriate, and immensely humorous speaker like Dr. Weichman, so I encourage any school official to make the decision to bring him abroad.

Sincerely,

Keishia Kemp
Academic Dean

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