

**EL TORO HIGH SCHOOL**  
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David L. Ellick, Principal



*"Preparing today's students to  
succeed in tomorrow's world"*

April 9, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

We had the pleasure of having Dr. Weichman speak to our 150 special education students here at El Toro High School. The students have disabilities ranging from learning disabilities to severe handicaps. Dr. Weichman's charm and personality kept students engaged and focused throughout his entire presentation. He shared personal hardships and how he overcame his own issues with his disability. Dr. Weichman in addition to sharing how he overcame adversity, gave the kids some tools for how to overcome some of the difficulties in their lives. The presentation focused on how to develop a healthy mind and body and to equip the kids with an educational "tool belt" which gives kids the coping mechanisms for how to deal with the challenges in life. Other topics discussed were academics, self-esteem, body image, motivation, social acceptance, and emotional development. All of the topics discussed had an underlying theme of working to build intrinsic motivation for these kids.

The response from the students who attended his presentation was very positive. The students enjoyed Dr. Weichman's candid and honest nature and found his speech very motivational. Many students stayed after his presentation and expressed how much they appreciated his speech. Students also had many questions for Dr. Weichman about his personal experiences and wanted his advice on issues. Dr. Weichman touched many kids and gave them tools to build on and some positive hope for the future.

Overall, Dr. Weichman is a professional and effective speaker who can reach out to any population of students with his motivational speech. He was such a positive effective influence on the kids at ETHS we will be working to bring him back to ETHS to speak to the general population. Dr. Weichman has also been moved to the top of our list on or outside counselors list. On behalf of the ETHS special ed department, I strongly recommend Dr. Weichman as an inspirational speaker and individual counselor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'David Houten'.

David Houten  
School Psychologist  
El Toro High School

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