

The critics have the last word...

"During my 30 years of teaching, in addition to teaching pre-service college students, I have worked extensively around the state of Indiana with school corporations assisting them with in-service of their teachers in the area of mathematics. In my work with current teachers in Indiana, I have met some excellent teachers and, unfortunately, some who are only there for their paychecks. When David is given his first job as an elementary teacher, he will be among the top of the list of excellent teachers with which I have dealt. David is committed to doing the very best he can as he works with his future students, their parents, and other teachers in the building. David is an excellent student, has exceptional moral qualities, and has a great deal to offer children as they grow up in today's society. In my book, David belongs in the top one percent of students I have had in my teaching career. I have full faith and confidence in David."

- Written by an IUPUI professor

"It's been an absolute pleasure getting to know you this semester. I have no doubt you're going to be an amazing educator. You are very passionate, critical (in a good way), and realistic about education, which is something we need."

- Written by an IUPUI professor

"You were the best substitute teacher, ever. When I was in 7th grade (which was two years ago). I thought that you weren't like most teachers, because you were a lot more relaxed and comfortable interacting with students. I felt like you could relate to the students more because of that, which in turn could lead to more effective teaching. As far as classroom management goes, you did a good job in keeping students under control, but you weren't too forceful or "demanding", I suppose, in doing so. This is one of the primary reasons why you were able to keep us under control so effectively. Not being too forceful but also clearly indicating what is expected of students and also trying to connect with them personally are, in my opinion, all ways that a teacher could maintain control in the classroom."

- Written by a former student

"I just wanted you to know that David Bonner was a sub in my room on Thursday and Friday and he did an outstanding job! His notes were extremely concise and he left the room extremely clean! He left all the papers organized together by period and did just a great job! I was very impressed!!! He seemed to have things totally under control and the kids got so much accomplished with him in the room!"

- Written by a middle school teacher I subbed for

Feedback from parents - 2008-2009 school year

Names have been replaced by " _____ " for confidentiality purposes.

_____ and I can't thank you enough for the personal time and effort you have spent helping _____ this year. Obviously with his Asperger's condition we get concerned about his ability to deal with how other kids might be taking advantage of him. But you have been a stabilizing force for him this year. He has appreciated the lunch sessions and loves your class and science club.

You may not realize how much of an influence you have been with him, because Middle School kids often don't acknowledge it, but we are thrilled about how he has progressed in certain parts of his life because of you. Thanks for keeping Christ first in what you do, revealing to him the passion you have for science, and helping kids like _____ grow and develop positively. We can't thank you enough.

You have done a great job, Mr. Bonner. We especially liked all of the creative projects. You made the students think, which is vital. I also liked the variety of teaching methods that you used. Another thing that was great, was how you taught them to write notes from the book (not _____ 's favorite, but very necessary!) They seemed to get a lot more out of the hands on stuff instead of the book.

I am grateful for all you pour in to our students, and the extra time you take through lunch time and science club to REALLY get to know them. _____ has enjoyed playing chess with you, and both boys really enjoyed the egg drop. _____ pretty much enjoys everything.

Thanks for all you've done, David, for our students! I know _____ has enjoyed science and I know she learned a lot (how much of that she'll retain may be a different story!). I know she enjoyed and learned the most from hands-on activities you provided. Thanks for all the fun, cool, interesting activities you engaged them in!