



Karin Johnson
Principal

Running Brushy Middle School

Leander Independent School District
2303 N. Lakeline Blvd.
Cedar Park, Texas 78613
(512) 435-4700



Tom Glenn
Superintendent

March 28, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

Virgil Buell has worked at Running Brushy for the past year and a half. He was hired in December, 2004 through a Title 1 math grant. Mr. Buell currently teaches 6th-8th grade students who failed the TAKS math test the previous spring. These students have 90 minutes of math each day with their regular math teachers and are pulled from one of their electives to receive 45 additional minutes of math with Mr. Buell.

Mr. Buell's position was newly created; therefore, he has had to develop his curriculum and methodologies from scratch. Also, he has tailored his teaching to fit a wide range of learning levels. Because he teaches students during their elective times, he is unable to meet with grade level math teachers who are planning during that time, he must make every effort to catch these teachers before and after school and at lunch. Nonetheless, Virgil has developed creative ideas to strengthen math skills, including activities using playing cards, board games, and dice for hands-on, cooperative learning. Virgil has also sought feedback from his students to help him (and them) understand their abilities and level of enthusiasm for learning.

This summer Virgil began attending a series of workshops on *Creating a Continuous Improvement Culture in Middle School* presented by Jeff and Jacqui Burgard. He and his workshop cohorts presented their initial findings at Leander ISD's 2006 Annual February Continuous Improvement Conference. He also attended *Capturing Kids' Hearts*, a 3-day training for educators to learn about the mind-heart connection.

I appreciate Virgil's willingness to learn and improve as an educator. He has made great strides in his professional development. Feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karin P. Johnson'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Karin P. Johnson
Principal
(512)435-4710

LEANDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Running Brushy Middle School

2303 N. Lakeline Blvd.

Cedar Park, Texas 78613

512-435-4700

J. T. Glenn
SUPERINTENDENT

Karin Johnson
PRINCIPAL

May 20, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept my recommendation for Virgil Buell. I have been Mr. Buell's immediate administrative supervisor at Running Brushy Middle School for the past two years as the assistant principal.

Concerning his qualifications and promise for a teaching position with you, I feel that Mr. Buell is a very good candidate to fill any elementary position. He has been one of my better math teachers the past two years and has served on several school improvement committees, completed the LISD Continuous Improvement Institute, volunteered as team manager for Destination Imagination, and presented classroom quality improvement methodology at the LISD Continuous Improvement Conference held in February.

Mr. Buell has performed duties at Running Brushy Middle School as a Title I math teacher in all grades (6th, 7th, and 8th), which includes planning for and directing a specific program expected to produce learning and success for all students. He has done an excellent job and has continued to grow in academic areas through in-service opportunities.

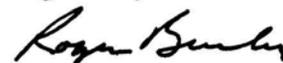
Mr. Buell has demonstrated a motivation here at RBMS to do the best job possible, and I believe would do the same in any new educational employment challenge that would further his educational experience. He has performed his duties at RBMS very well.

Mr. Buell is an excellent employee that fulfills all duties and, when asked, he also fulfills extra duties. He puts in the time to get the job done and I have never heard him complain. Teaching at RBMS and in the Leander district is demanding and requires extra time beyond the normal teaching job. He has performed his duties to the level of 'beyond expectations' this year, both in the classroom and with school initiatives.

Mr. Buell demonstrates integrity. His character is of the highest level. He is well liked by his peers. His personality is light hearted and fun, but serious when required. He interacts with colleagues well and students enjoy him as their teacher.

I would recommend Virgil Buell for inclusion in your search for an elementary teacher. Please note his strengths in math and science. I believe he will be an asset to you and be one of your top employees. Thank you for reading my recommendation and I hope this information will be of assistance to your decision making process. I would be pleased to see Mr. Buell remain at RBMS, but I understand his desire to work at the elementary level. I would definitely rehire him in the future, if the opportunity arose. If you have any further questions that I can answer concerning Mr. Buell, please call me at 512-435-4713 anytime.

Roger Busby



Assistant Principal

March 26, 2006

To Whom it May Concern:

Rarely does one have the opportunity to recommend someone as qualified for a teaching position as Virgil Buell. It was apparent to me when I first looked at his resume in Nov. of 2004, that he had exceptional knowledge and experience. As a Middle School math facilitator, I had the privilege of sitting in on his interview for a position as a Title I math teacher. Throughout the interview he continued to impress not only with his extensive knowledge of mathematics, but also with his vast knowledge of educational practices. He has studied widely on educational theory, and has applied what he has learned to his classroom experiences. The other striking impression that he left on me then, was his need to bring curiosity-seeking into his classroom. Virgil has a multitude of unique items that he chooses to bring to his students to pique their curiosity and to help make connections to the real world.

As a teacher, Virgil constantly works to adjust his theoretical knowledge to practical uses. He questions those theories and seeks to modify his classroom experiences to best suit his students. Many times he has expressed to me that he wants to do what's best for his students, and that he is open to any ideas from anyone with more experience that will help him accomplish his goals. Virgil does not blindly enter into any new practice, but looks objectively at its value, and then reworks the ideas to fit his needs. He is especially adept at using the computer to generate data or make classroom games.

As a coworker this year at RBMS, we have spoken many times this year about educational theory and practical application. Although I have more than 30 years experience in the elementary and Middle School classroom, I have learned as much from Virgil as he has learned from me.

There is no doubt in my mind that Virgil Buell will continue to add to his "bag of tricks" and modify his style to find the best fit for students in his charge. He cares deeply about what he is doing as an educator and always has the best interest of his students in mind. Virgil will always advocate for his students and for the best educational system we can provide.

In closing, it is my belief that Virgil Buell would be an extremely positive influence on any school faculty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Lamoureaux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being the most prominent part.

Gary Lamoureaux

6th Grade Math Teacher

Running Brushy Middle School

Georgetown Independent School District

Carver Elementary

Phone: 512-943-5070
Fax: 512-943-5079

1200 West 17th Street
Georgetown, Texas 78626

Jennifer Mauldin, Principal
Peggy Vanelli, Counselor

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Virgil Buell. I have known Mr. Buell since he began mentoring a second grade child on my campus seven years ago. I was impressed with his commitment to helping this child: he could be counted on to show up on a weekly basis without fail, and even began spending extra time at lunch and recess helping a struggling child find acceptance. Since that time, I have seen him give much of his free time, not only mentoring several children, but also working with small and large groups of children in a variety of ways.

He regularly comes to school and performs various science experiments with all of the second grade classes. His presentations are professionally thought out, and he tailors them to the children's interests and abilities, while still providing them with a challenge.

His expertise in math caused my second grade teaching team to hire him as a math specialist on a part time basis for one school year when we had grant money available; he provided a valuable resource for each of us by working with us in our classrooms with small groups of children who were having difficulties learning math. His understanding of math and the way children learn was an invaluable resource.

He has also volunteered to work for several years with small groups of gifted and talented children in my classroom, challenging them with math games and activities on a weekly basis. His consistent support has been invaluable, and the children involved always look forward to their time with him.

As teachers, my team and I have been able to call on him for advice and solutions concerning computer problems we've experienced, both at school and at home.

He went out of his way to provide us with a program he designed when he saw our need for generating math problems.

I have had numerous conversations with Mr. Buell concerning education and teaching; he sincerely desires to see all children be successful, and I know he goes out of his way to accomplish this task.

Mr. Buell is a gifted teacher who takes his job seriously and strives to provide the best possible experience for all of the children in the classroom. He will be an invaluable asset to the campus that is lucky enough to hire him!

Sincerely,

Margaret E. Vargo

Margaret Vargo
Carver Elementary
Georgetown, TX
512-943-5070 (school)
512-863-6137 (home)

March 23, 2006

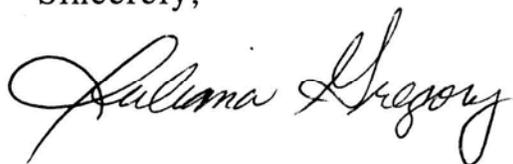
To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter of introduction and recommendation for Virgil Buell. I have worked with Virgil at Running Brushy Middle School. He is a positive, enthusiastic member of our faculty who demonstrates a great willingness to learn and grow as a professional. He is dependable and works with integrity.

Virgil has worked the past year and a half with students who have not been successful passing the math portion of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skill test. Virgil's concern for his student's success goes beyond the test. His priority is helping students understand math as it relates to the real world and their lives. As a Destination Imagination team manager he extended his influence beyond his classroom. Virgil has many fine qualities that I expect a teacher to have to teach my own child. That is, in my opinion, the highest endorsement I could possibly give a teacher.

In closing, it must be said that Virgil Buell is an outstanding citizen in our school. He would be an asset to any faculty. If you have any questions, please call me anytime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Juliana Gregory". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'J' and 'G'.

Juliana Gregory
Reading Adventures/Leadership Teacher
Running Brushy Middle School
(512)435-4700 ext. 52760

To Whom It May Concern,

I have known Virgil Buell for four years. I have had many opportunities to observe him within the school environment. He always demonstrates exceptional use of skills in his planning and quality of teaching. Mr. Buell seeks and sets for himself additional tasks involving student learning. He is thorough, organized, dependent, and versatile in his planning and execution of lessons within the classroom. I have always known him to be well read and exceptionally well informed in all instructional areas.

Mr. Buell will make an outstanding teacher not only because of the skill he possesses, but also because of his love and desire to work with all levels of children. His passion and professionalism are obvious and commendable.

If I can be of any further service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Traci Shillingburg". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Traci Shillingburg
Williams Elementary School
Georgetown, TX
(512) 943-5160

**Note: Mrs. Shillingburg now works at Ford Elementary, GISD.
Her phone number is 512-943-5180 x7909.**



Running Brushy Middle School

Leander Independent School District

2303 N. Lakeline Blvd.

Cedar Park, Texas 78613

(512) 435-4700



Karin Johnson
Principal

Tom Glenn
Superintendent

Dear Ms. Wood:

I am writing on behalf of my co-worker, Virgil Buell. Because I work with at-risk and Title 1 students, I have the opportunity to spend time in Mr. Buell's classes, so I know first-hand his qualifications for being a part of the elementary QUEST program.

When Mr. Buell was hired for the job of Title 1 Math Adventures teacher, he was a brand new teacher thrust into a position with no set curriculum or guidelines. Other obstacles he had to face were traveling to two campuses and adapting to differing personnel and student populations. Along the way, with minor bumps and bruises, Virgil strengthened his skills in communication and flexibility.

In my opinion, QUEST students need a special breed of teacher. Someone who appreciates their quirky senses of humor and eccentric views of ordinary subjects. Someone who swims upstream while others swim downstream. Someone who has a hunger for continuous learning, exploration, and knowledge. Someone who "gets" QUESTS students. That someone is Virgil Buell.

To call Mr. Buell unconventional is an understatement. He is always asking, "Why are we doing it this way?" "How is this going to benefit the students?" "How is this going to help me teach so my students can learn?"

Mr. Buell does not want to settle for average or typical. He has such genuine qualities of a perpetual student, always wanting to know more. Virgil Buell possesses so many of the qualities that QUEST represents. He truly *IS* a QUEST student, which in turn, will make him an exemplary QUEST teacher.

Thank you,

Stephany Gaines
At-Risk Coordinator
Running Brushy Middle School
512-434-5326 ext. 52728
stephany.gaines@leanderisd.org

**NOTE: QUEST is the
Gifted and Talented
Program within
Leander ISD**

- Virgil

Cindy Panzram
Running Brushy Middle School
2303 N. Lakeline Blvd.
Cedar Park, Texas 78613
March 28, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

It has been my pleasure to have Virgil Buell as a professional colleague now for two years. During those two years we have had numerous occasions to work together on mutual projects, and we have jointly attended many educational meetings and continuous improvement seminars. During those times I have been able to hear Mr. Buell's educational philosophies, see results from his classroom, and get to know him on a personal basis, as well.

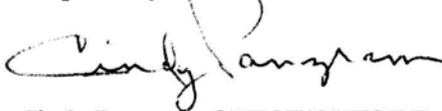
Totally impressed with Mr. Buell's dedication to the educational process at any level, I have seen the results of his commitment in his Title I math classes and extracurricular interaction with students. His innate ability to target individual learning differences among his students is outstanding. He also detects the emotional needs of his students, which causes them to feel a great amount of comfort with him.

Just this year, as campus coordinator for Destination Imagination, I asked Mr. Buell if he would consider being a Team Manager for one of our school's DI teams. Though he had never acted in this capacity before and was not terribly familiar with the over all picture of Destination Imagination, he graciously accepted the offer and quickly familiarized himself with all materials. Due to Mr. Buell's past history with the military, his commitment to excellence, and appreciation of organization, I hand-picked his team, giving to him several young male students who basically had no male images in their lives and were problematic in various areas. The effect Mr. Buell had on these young teenage boys was heart warming. They quickly assessed their "coach" as being devoted to them....caring about them...and he was able to inspire excellence in their behavior and production. All missions were accomplished. In fact, this group of six children (4 boys and 2 girls) are requesting to be on his team again, next year!

Mr. Buell is a competent, caring, and committed self-starter; an individual thinker who inspires students, leads them to discovery of their own worth, and provides a safe environment for them at all times. And, he never questions going that extra mile, for that is his basic nature.

I highly recommend Mr. Buell for any teaching position, but will most selfishly add that I will miss his being on my campus as a colleague as he moves on in his professional venue.

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy Panzram, QUEST/QUEST English teacher
March 28, 2006

Georgetown Independent School District

Carver Elementary

Phone: 512-943-5070
Fax: 512-943-5079

**1200 West 17th Street
Georgetown, Texas 78626**

Jennifer Mauldin, Principal
Peggy Vanelli, Counselor

April 12, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am currently a second grade teacher at Carver Elementary in Georgetown, Texas. I have had 23 years of teaching experience in kindergarten through fifth grade. I am pleased to recommend Virgil Buell for a position within your school. I have been associated with Virgil for the past seven years. He has been a valuable resource in many ways at Carver Elementary.

In 1997 Virgil mentored a student in my classroom. He came several times each week during our lunch and recess time. He was always punctual. He developed a good rapport with all the children in my class. They all looked forward to "Mr. Virgil's" visits.

The next year his mentee's sister was in my class. He came regularly to visit with her even though her brother was on another campus. Again he was punctual and developed a good rapport with the children.

Over the past seven years Virgil has presented special programs for our second grade classes to compliment units we were teaching. He had well prepared lesson plans and presented excellent programs for the students. His programs included a presentation on rocket propulsion and the firing of a rocket, a lesson on sublimation using dry ice, a lesson on how bees make honey (With this lesson he brought his bee hive, minus the bees, and all the equipment needed to be beekeeper.), and a presentation with rabbits he raised.

During the 2000-2001 school year Virgil volunteered to teach a second grade GT math and science enrichment class for an hour once a week. He started the year with 16 students and had 26 by the end of the year. He was well organized, punctual, and had quality lessons planned each week. The students looked forward to his weekly lessons. In addition, Virgil helped with Math Pentathlon once a week for an hour. Outside the school day he tutored students in math at all levels from lower elementary through high school.

The following school year Carver Elementary received a remedial math grant. Virgil was hired to teach remedial math to our second grade students four days each week from October through April. He met with small groups of students throughout the school day. He was responsible for the planning, organizing, and teaching. He developed lesson plans to meet the needs of his individual students. He had to work with seven classroom teachers to coordinate when children would be pulled from their classrooms. He ran this program competently.

Not only has Virgil been an excellent volunteer and teacher for the students, he has also provided computer assistance to our faculty. He has helped individual teachers solve

computer problems and has conducted a workshop on how to use the scanner and digital cameras for the whole faculty.

Virgil would make an excellent addition to any faculty. He has knowledge and expertise in many areas. He always does his best, is trustworthy, professional, and is committed to any job he says he will do.

I would be glad to have you call me if you have any questions. My home phone number is 512-863-3199.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy D. Carriker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "K" and "C".

Kathy D. Carriker
105 Parque Court
Georgetown, Texas 78626

NOTE: Mrs. Carriker retired from GISD in 2004 and now resides in Dripping Springs, Texas. Her home phone number is 512-858-4556 and her cell number is 512-864-4723.

Dr. Philip M. Powell
Running Brushy
Middle School
2303 N. Lakeline
Cedar Park, Tx. 78613

To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of strongest support for Virgil Buell, 6-8th grade math teacher at Running Brushy Middle School. I have known Virgil for more than a year, have spoken to him many times and know how both students and faculty feel about him.

Virgil also served as a destination imagination coach this year and I have spoken with his students in order to seek their views about him.

Everyone says the same thing about Virgil. First -he cares. Comment after comment about Virgil begins with statements about how much he cares about kids, teaching, moral values, thinking, and the country.

He gives his time to help anyone who needs it. Virgil also shows a few other things which show a real concern for folks-patience and a sensitive intelligence. He also explains complicated ideas quite well, and loves to see others learn.

Often, I have seen how Virgil explains an idea; he goes to the board, watches the face and questions a person asks, and then tailors his answers based on the verbal and nonverbal behaviors of the listener.

In a word, Virgil is extremely intelligent, and he is definitely committed to the development of all people, not just his own students.

Finally, to be this way, Virgil works hard, very hard; indeed, it is his preferred way of living.

Since Virgil works hard, thinks deeply, cares for folks and has a real passion for learning, I can only recommend him with considerable enthusiasm.

Virgil Buell is one of the very best teachers around.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip Powell".

Philip M. Powell, Ph.D.
7/8th grade QUEST teacher
Leander ISD