

TO WHOM THIS MAY CONCERN:

I am a parent of a child that has participated in the Sound Encounters Program in Ottawa, Kansas. As part of that camp, my son was placed in the intermediate level orchestra with Mr. David Barg. My son, a cellist, thought that Mr. Barg was "just the greatest." He talked about his sense of humor and funny faces, yet he admired the "get down to business" demeanor as well. Todd holds the utmost respect for Mr. Barg and it is apparent to me that there are many, many more children throughout the camp that feel the same way.

I had a unique opportunity this past June to not only attend the camp as a parent, but as the campus photographer. It was the "best of the best" because I was able to visit all of the classes, see the teachers in action, and observe how they teach and interact with the kids. My job was most thrilling when I attended ANY of Mr. Barg's classes, whether it was the advanced orchestra or a conducting class. He is a remarkable teacher and human being. He shows great respect for his work and for his students. He makes learning FUN!!! (His early morning orchestra wasn't quite awake one day and he made them all follow him, marching and clapping and dancing through the dining hall!) He EARNs the children's respect.

One of the most meaningful times to me was when I was observing an orchestra class and I was amazed at how much more Mr. Barg was teaching the kids than just music. He talked to them about stature and posture and how it related to your every day appearance and what others thought of you. He stressed the importance of being part of a team. He teaches the kids so many more "life lessons" than ANY teacher I have seen to date.

This is a remarkable quality in anyone, let alone someone who attempts to deal with teenagers!! Mr. Barg allows the children to get to know him. He doesn't have that "distance" between himself and his students. He honestly wants to relate to them and get to know them. He has made his mark in many lives of young children today and I hope that he continues to be able to do this kind of work and inspire the children that are our future.

Aside: Mr. Barg is also very accommodating when it comes to having an annoying photographer in his classroom. He makes taking pictures of him so very easy to do and so much fun. I NEVER felt as though I was in the way or causing a scene. He was always welcoming and warm. I adore him! I would have my child study with him or observe him conducting any time!!! He is an inspiration to us all on how to have fun and yet strive to be the best that we can be.

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