

# DETROIT LAKES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Educational Excellence for All*

## Reflective Statement of Professional Accomplishment & Assessment of Professional Growth

Date of Submission: 4-21-11

Name: Jane Doe

File Folder Number: 123456

Building Site:

**Please review the following and answer the questions below.**

To meet the new requirement to renew your teaching license, two written statements are needed that demonstrates personal reflection on your professional accomplishments and summarizes a self-assessment of your professional growth.

Please use one or more of the following types of evidence for your statements:

1. Support for student learning
2. Use of best practices techniques and their applications to student learning
3. Collaborative work with colleagues that includes examples of collegiality i.e.: attested-to committee work, collaborative staff development programs, professional learning community work
4. Continual professional development i.e.: job-embedded or other ongoing formal professional learning, including coursework

**Personal reflection on your professional accomplishments:**

### **Describe 'how' you have demonstrated or implemented one or more of the above:**

I attended the Schmitt Director Appreciation Day on August 27, 2011 in Bloomington, MN and it was a wonderful experience. They had three great speakers that day. Dr. Charles Menghini presentation was on a Practical Approach to Music Advocacy, Dr. Wendy Barden presented on how to create a group environment. I learned the most that day from the final speaker Dr. Bruce Pearson, who is the composer of our current lesson book. He had some great tips for teaching beginning instrumentalists that I have started using. The tips really help develop the correct tone and embouchure on each instrument.

Dr. Bruce Pearson's presentation was the most helpful when it comes to the basics of teaching. The tips that he gave really help develop the correct tone and embouchure on each instrument. I now have my beginning students play the correct pitch on just their mouthpiece and neck or barrel. Then when they put that piece back on the instrument their sound has improved so much and you know that they are using the correct pressure on the mouthpiece. By doing this from the beginning the students are going to be saved a lot of headaches later when I tell them they play sharp or flat. I also use this technique with my older students when I find out they play everything sharp or flat I have them take their mouthpieces and necks or barrels and try to play the correct pitch. When they achieve this they are in tune when they go to play their whole instrument again. The second piece of information that he relayed to us had to do with breath support on all the instruments. He asked the question: How do you know how much air a student is pushing through the instrument? One way to find out is to have a piece of paper with a bull's eye on it and have them hold it out in front of them and blow. You can see if they are blowing straight down, up, right, or left by how they blow on the paper and you can see how strong their blowing is. The second step would be for them to blow the paper against the wall. I use these techniques with my beginners on all the instruments. I pull out the bull's eye and call it target practice. By doing this throughout the year I am stopping the students from starting bad habits with their breathing.

The information was invaluable from Dr. Bruce Pearson. I implemented the ideas stated above at the beginning of the year and have seen the growth in the students because of them.

**Summary of self-assessment of your professional growth:**

### **Evaluate your own current professional growth plan, goals and accomplishments:**

My current plan for professional growth is to continue to go to at least the Minnesota Music Educators Mid Winter Clinic. I am always able to come back with different ideas to use in the classroom and it always has something that pertains to what I want to work on with my groups each year. I am so proud of the way my band performed at Walt Disney World and how they took their performance to the next level.

The information provided in this document is reviewed by the district Continuing Education Committee

When the information provided is approved, this document will be placed in the teacher's Clock Hour file. Teachers should retain a copy for their records. In the event a reflective statement is not approved, the document will be returned to the teacher.