

I Touched the Future 2022

It is with total confidence and great pride that I compose this letter in support of **Mr. Earl "Wayne" Randolph's** teacher candidacy for **I Touch the Future**. Mr Randolph was an over-comer, a problem-solver, an innovator, a coach, and a dynamic member of our faculty at Floyd R. Shafer Elementary School. His enthusiasm, love, and passion for teaching (and his students) had hardly a rival on our staff and we had an incredible faculty back in the days of our former principal, Mrs. Davis.

Wayne did not work or serve for awards or accolades, but simply to inspire and impact all those he met each day. He had mastered the elusive art of being firm but fair, having rules yet maintaining relationships, and keenly remembering that though he taught numerous content/subject areas he was really teaching "children" whom he freely offered love, acceptance, and grace. Wayne also displayed his talent of coaching on the football and baseball fields at Nazareth for numerous years earning the respect of fellow coaches and his players. He coached each player as if they were the star athlete. He inspired his players towards becoming a better athlete and more importantly a better person by the end of the season.

While remaining current with the latest instructional strategies and technologies, he could still reach a troubled or struggling student with simple, yet profound, fatherly instincts and empathy coupled with complete professionalism. Likewise, he could accelerate and challenge his brightest students because of professional development experiences and innovations he had pursued and mastered. Wayne was a pioneer in collecting data from his assessments and using the data to improve individual student performance. Equally impressive was the ability to share and help his younger less inexperienced teachers with his data recording techniques, teaching strategies, and heart felt life lessons.

Wayne had a calling on his life, and that calling was teaching which he exquisitely balanced with his most important roles as a dad and father. He taught his students to strive for excellence, to love all subjects, and to respect each other; and he taught all of us (his peers) to give our best for our students, to wear a smile, to have faith, and to remember that the storms of life can often produce beautiful rainbows and new growth.

Wayne did receive a teaching excellence award from the local IU20 prior to his retirement.

Thank you for this opportunity to brag on my friend, former colleague, role model, former coach, and professional I Touch the Future nominee.

With complete confidence and pride,

Yours sincerely,

Scott M. Stump