

# Michael Stone

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Daniel Hackett  
Superintendent  
De Pere School District  
1700 Chicago St.  
De Pere, WI 54115

Dear Superintendent Hackett:

I am an exceptional, hard working, open-minded educator with a deep knowledge of content and a desire to make a difference in the lives of my students. I hope to have the opportunity to share my insight and passion with both the students and faculty of De Pere Middle School as a 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher. I am excited at the possibility of working at De Pere Middle School due to your excellent reputation in Wisconsin as an educational institution. With my extensive, exceptional educational experience and love for teaching, I feel like I would be a great asset to your already brilliant school.

During my student teaching experience and teaching practicum, I have been able to work with a variety of age groups and skill levels. In each of these experiences, I have successfully been able to reach all of the skill levels in a variety of different ways. For example, when I was teaching middle school math, I worked cooperatively with another middle school teacher to split my two sixth grade classes into two groups for a couple of days. One group consisted of students who could use some extra review, and the other consisted of students whose skill level was significantly higher than the first group. While I gave the first group a few extra days of review and review games, the second group was given the chance to work on computers. The second group was given their math textbook's website and given the opportunity to play the educational games, look to upcoming chapters' content, and even look back at topics even they might have needed a bit of extra work on. This mini review unit was extremely helpful, insightful, and especially fun for students in both groups. My ability to think outside of the box, work cooperatively with other faculty members in the same grade level, and commitment to the students really made this regularly boring review of the subject something that the students will hopefully keep with them for years to come.

While at another teaching experience, I was asked to teach measurement to 5<sup>th</sup> graders. At this particular school, I had to come up with lessons that really engaged the students. The vast majority of the students didn't understand when they would use measurement in the future, other than if they were to work at a construction company. The very next day, I came back with an impromptu lesson plan about measurement's uses in hunting and farming, which were subjects they were experts on, being that the majority of them lived on farms. From there, I gave out an assignment to create scale drawings of their farm land, their house, or their room using the measuring units we had been working on. What they came back with was some of the most amazing drawings I had ever seen from students their age. The students had gone all out, labeling everything on their drawings, creating scales, creating a key, using stickers to represent animals and other objects. It became probably the most rewarding lesson that I have ever done. I felt a sense of accomplishment having been a truly student centered teacher who found a way to reach students in such a significant way. This lesson also showed that not only can I create student centered lessons, but also that I am able to think on my feet.

I am a lifelong learner who strives to explore new places and ideas. My ultimate goal as a teacher is to shape students into well rounded individuals who become lifelong learners and who work hard to be successful in all areas of their lives. I intend on doing this by creating a classroom environment that employs all of the senses and is attuned to students' individual needs such that they, too, are engaged and encouraged to treat every experience as an opportunity to learn. Thank you for your time and your careful consideration. If you have any questions, I can be contacted by e-mail at michael.stone@snc.edu or by telephone at (708) 356-6425.

Sincerely,

Michael Stone