



E.H. Phillips Elementary

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Mandy L. Bates
Principal

"HIGH STANDARDS EVERYDAY FOR ALL STUDENTS"

Ivette Jimenez
Secretary

July 27, 2021

To Whom it may concern:

For the past few years, I have been working with Stephen Kozan to bring the excitement of reading and writing to my schools. It is amazing the level of enthusiasm he can expel from even the most reluctant readers.

The first two years, we were able to bring Stephen in for a live visit. You could hear the eagerness buzzing through the halls. Stephen starts with a short presentation about his journey as an author, then moves into drawing a character with his illustrator, and ends with a contest that EVERYONE wants to win.

By the time he gets to the actual writing contest, there is such a strong energy in the room, so much encouragement, I've even seen teachers ask for a paper and pencil (although they don't actually enter the contest.) The buzz is just that contagious.

After pouring through all the entries, Stephen selects one winner and takes them through the incredible opportunity of becoming a published author. Once the book is printed, he is not done. He stays in touch with the student and school and goes above and beyond to help sell the finished work.

Even throughout COVID times, Stephen was able to adjust his presentation to a virtual model, which allowed students who were both cyber schooling and hybrid, to participate simultaneously.

I have rarely seen anyone so dedicated to bringing a special literary opportunity to students, especially to those schools who can't afford the outrageous price of a typical author visit. I am honored to have him visit my district the past three years and can't wait to have him return this coming year. There is no question of the amazing experience he will bring to your school.

Sincerely,

Erika Strout (Elementary Librarian)

Mandy Bates (E.H. Phillips Principal)