



February 20, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am John Hansen, currently in my third year as Teacher Assistant for Language Arts and Social Studies for the 7th and 8th grades. I would like to add some of my own comments and observations.

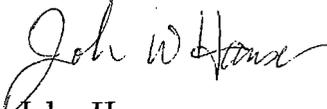
I facilitate 8th graders' choices for public and private high schools. Admissions directors from some of southern Connecticut's leading private high schools have told me that they are impressed with Side by Side School graduates who now attend their schools.

Last year, one of our 8th grade special education students was reading at about 4th grade level. By the end of the school year, through our diligent efforts, the student became a much more focused reader and the student reported enjoying reading and learning more than ever before.

Nearly a decade ago, one of my nieces, a straight A student at a large, Fairfield County middle school, was not challenged, and therefore unhappy there. Our niece researched a local charter school, which sad to say, no longer exists, and enrolled in its 8th grade class. The experience was so positive for her, that she was able to enroll in college two years early, and has successfully graduated from university.

From my brief experience and exposure to charter schools, I have observed many students enjoy learning more, and become not only better students, but I think more well rounded as individuals. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,


John Hansen