



Brookline Elementary School
Houston Independent School District
6301 South Loop East, Houston TX, 77087
Tel. No. 713-845-7400 Fax. No. 713-847-4717
Dr. Michelle Cloud - Principal
Marco Morales – Teacher Specialist
Mayte Garcia-Olivo – Instructional Specialist
Rick Nagir - Teacher Specialist

To whom it may concern:

From August 2011 to September 2012, I had the pleasure of supervising and appraising Theodore S. Wills as principal of Brookline Elementary. Mr. Wills is a highly effective bilingual fourth grade teacher who is passionately dedicated to the advancement of his students, his colleagues, and the school itself. He is presently teaching Reading and Social Studies to two classes, along with Writing to his homeroom.

Now serving in his ninth year of teaching, Mr. Wills brings to his transitional classroom a wealth of classroom management skills, curricular depth, and student engagement expertise. A graduate of Dartmouth College, the University of Texas School of Business, and *El Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey* Business School, Mr. Wills is an enthusiastic participant in continuing professional development. As a result, Mr. Wills offers students a challenging and dynamic academic environment where his motivational efforts can be heard through walls. Mr. Wills' classroom is a celebration of colorful print-rich anchor charts and didactic posters set in a pirate ship motif (the "Jolly Reader"). The classroom is called "the Land of Complete Sentences." Although he normally dresses for school in blazer and tie, he recently purchased an entire pirate costume so as to occasionally visit and delight his students as "Captain Comprehension."

As someone who has traveled to Mexico for more than a quarter century, as well as having lived and worked and taught and studied in said country for a decade, Mr. Wills has developed a profound appreciation for the culture and aspirations of our English Language Learners from Mexico and Central America. He is ever eager to share his love for speaking Spanish and his insights about the Mexican people to one and all. Mr. Wills has had great success in communicating with parents in Spanish, which he does frequently. He encourages his parents to call his cell phone on nights and weekends.

On an almost daily basis and including weekends, Mr. Wills shares suggestions and resources with his grade level colleagues, faculty, and administration at large. Last year he organized a visit to the school by speakers from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo (to be repeated this fall). Together with his fellow fourth grade teachers, he participated vigorously in a historic effort to sponsor our fourth graders on a

trip to SeaWorld in May. During the summer, he proposed to the administration that Brookline Elementary launch a student council. Mr. Wills is now the school sponsor for that organization. This fall he shared his DonorsChoose resources with his teaching partner for mathematics. During September he put together a school-wide "Meet and Greet Night" at a local business to raise money for fourth grade field trips. Mr. Wills currently serves as Treasurer of the fourth grade faculty. He has prepared and submitted a draft year-long fundraising plan for the fourth grade.

As Brookline Elementary's new Social Studies Lead Teacher, Mr. Wills has organized the school-wide observance of "Patriot Day," "Constitution Day," and "Texas Celebrates Freedom Week." Thanks to Mr. Wills, the school will be conducting a pioneering "Voter Registration Drive." During October, Mr. Wills will be working with fourth and fifth grade teachers to promote "The My Voice National Student Mock Election." He is also encouraging these teachers to have their students watch part or all of the presidential debates.

Perhaps one of Mr. Wills' most promising proposals would be the creation of a Brookline Collaborative that would include the principal and representatives from local businesses and foundations. As someone with extensive previous experience in fundraising, marketing, and corporate networking, Mr. Wills is eager to enhance and promote strategic partnerships to benefit this Title I neighborhood school for years to come. He suggests calling such a position "Community Engagement Specialist." Mr. Wills has a dream that these consultants might someday be of service to all Title I school principals in Houston Independent School District and beyond.

In conclusion, I heartily recommend Mr. Wills to any learning enterprise. Please feel free to contact me with any questions in this regard.

Sincerely,



Michelle Cloud, Ph.D.

Principal, Brookline Elementary

Houston Independent School District

mcloud@houstonisd.org

713-845-7400