

Davidson Elementary School

**3950 E. Paradise Falls Dr., Tucson, AZ 85712
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Arthur DeFilippo, Principal

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in support of my principal, Art DeFilippo. I have been a school psychologist in TUSD for 29 years. As a result, I have had numerous school assignments, which in turn have allowed me to experience and interact with many principals. In my estimation, Art DeFilippo has been one of the best principals that I have experienced.

The job of the principal has evolved into a position which requires a combination of talent, skills, knowledge, organization, and what seems to be a need for endless energy. Mr. Art (as we all like to call him at Davidson), excels in all of these areas. Mr. Art puts in an effort that is way beyond that of a “regular” principal. He has spent countless hours at Davidson on weekends and evenings trying to make sure things go smoothly at Davidson. As a result, Davidson is a school that is on a mission: to improve the academic, emotional and physical well-being of its students.

As someone who was at Davidson prior to Mr. Art’s arrival (although not full-time until his arrival), I have seen many positive changes. The communication between leader and staff is excellent. Mr. Art keeps the staff continuously informed of up and coming events on a weekly basis through his “Dragon Lore”. The staff development is always relevant and very well organized. In addition, he is always open to meeting with individual teachers and staff.

The students know expectations for behavior in and outside the classroom. Mr. Art has instituted a discipline policy that is outlined in the Davidson Handbook. In addition, he is usually at the awards assembly (except in those instances when he is called for District meetings) for both primary and intermediate students. When it comes to resources, Mr Art seems to have every book or article ever written on any educational topic. And he is able to apply this knowledge to various issues that come up in school, e.g. behavior issues, ELL techniques, etc.

In regard to interactions with teachers, I have seen Mr. Art act only in a professional manner. He has a very good sense of humor and is not one to hold back when it comes to entertaining the students. In sum, I feel that Mr Art has turned around a school that has always had a negative reputation for learning. It is my opinion that students and parents have benefited from having Mr. Art as their principal. He is an individual that can get things done! Sincerely,

Adam Schnaps, Ph.D.
School Psychologist, Davidson Elementary