



KEELING ELEMENTARY
2837 N. Los Altos Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85705
(520) 696-6940

Art J. DeFilippo, Principal

January 22, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pride and honor that I am writing this letter of recommendation for Art DeFilippo for the position of Administrative Department Head.

For the past seven years, I have served in the position of Family/Student Advocate. Mr. DeFilippo has been the only elementary school principal I have worked with hand-in-hand. And when I say hand-in-hand, I mean it in every sense of the word.

Mr. DeFilippo is the embodiment of the American educational dream. His accomplishments with faculty, staff, and students are not just a list of concerns but "must do" by dialogue, feedback and follow-up. Mr. DeFilippo has made it a point to incorporate the participation of the community and Keeling Neighborhood Association to utilize outside resources to assist in school activities.

His continuous pursuit in the school programs--volunteers, tutoring, SFA, PTO, etc., giving each one his attention to detail, assuring all small things are checked and rechecked. He is a man of vision, which is proven by his fourteen and sixteen hour workdays. Yes, he is very demanding of his work schedule and will not deter from it until he reaches all his self-assigned goals.

Now, it is time to speak about Mr. DeFilippo's character, the man. In the seven years of our working relationship, we have conducted home visits collectively. Some have been sad one's as in the death of two of our Keeling students. Mr. DeFilippo will accompany the family from the first notice of the loss to the final resting place. I have looked into his eyes and seen his compassion, empathy, and his tear flow, for his loss has been family, one of his Keeling family, one of his students. Other home visits have been of a different nature, where again he has been there for the Keeling family. Examples - homelessness, evictions, shelters, custody case (in this home visit the parents were pulling the child from his limbs in order to overtake him). Again Mr. DeFilippo remained calm and handled the situation through the judicial system, but, first calling the police.

Many things have been written of Mr. DeFilippo in the academic field, his administrative expertise, and personal awards which are numerous and prestigious. If ever you needed a man to get the job done and done right the first time, Mr. Art DeFilippo is your choice. I can only describe him in the following scenario: It is the first day of school and not being familiar with classroom location, Mr. DeFilippo is a few minutes late and must sit in the rear of the classroom. But by the end of class session, Mr. DeFilippo is teaching the class. He will seek any challenge head on and complete it with style and flair.

Please feel free to contact me at 696-6974 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Carlos "Sonny" Valencia
Family/Student Advocate