



# Paulding County High School

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Dr. Paul McMahon  
*Principal*

March 27, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in recommendation of Marc Pedersen, Magnet Academy of Science, Research and Medicine Science teacher at Paulding County High School. Specifically, this recommendation is regarding Marc's candidacy for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. It has been my privilege to work with Marc for the past two years as the high school began this magnet academy through his leadership both as a teacher and critical colleague.

Marc is truly a classroom leader, both in his instructional excellence and as a model and advocate for the advancement of Science in my district. In 2013-14, Marc was selected as both school and district Teacher of the Year. Ultimately, he was a top 10 finalist for Georgia Teacher of the Year, bringing honor and attention to the school and its magnet program. Marc's classroom is the most scientific research-based student experience I have ever observed in a high school classroom. His students are educated and treated as scientists – their work is relevant and real. He has connected his Biology classroom with field scientific study in the Florida Keys that makes a profoundly engaging relationship between his students, the curriculum and the wonder of Science. Marc's classroom has been visited by teachers and administrators from throughout Georgia as an example to emulate. His students are the most passionate in my school. They come to school early, leave school late and never tire of the work they do. Marc's leadership of the classroom comes directly from his own scientific passion and love of student research – he models what he expects in a very authentic manner.

I believe Marc is a wonderful example of an impactful Science teacher who would be very deserving of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. His quality and innovation have already been recognized within the district and state, and this award aligns very well with this previous recognition. I hope that you will give him every consideration, and please feel free to contact me if I may be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Paul M. McMahon