



Hartfield Academy
1240 Luckney Road
Flowood, MS 39232

5/4/22

To Whom It May Concern;

I am writing this letter as a formal recommendation for Dean Sikes. As the high school counselor at Hartfield Academy I had the privilege to hear Dean Sikes speak to our students about suicide, bullying and why their life matters. This is an incredible program that all students across Mississippi need to hear.

Dean is a dynamic and interesting speaker who engages the students in his program on suicide prevention. He is impactful and very beneficial. Students were engaged and responsive during and after this seminar. We would look forward to having Dean Sikes back again every year. I pray this letter will serve as a recommendation to promote this program in all Mississippi schools.

It is impossible to articulate the importance of suicide prevention in our schools without statistics (*The Jason Foundation, 2022*).

- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for ages 10 – 24.
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for college age youth and ages 12 – 18.
- Each day in our nation, there are an average of over 3,703 attempts by young people grades 9 – 12.

These statistics can be reduced with speakers like Dean Sikes. It is rare that you find a speaker like Dean who is able to cover such a broad and sensitive subject like suicide in a captivating manner. It is without hesitation that I recommend Dean.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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HS Counselor
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