

Dedicated to Excellence



Cherry Creek Schools

Prairie Middle School
12600 East Jewell Avenue
Aurora, Colorado 80012
720.747.3000

August 8, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in reference to Brian Risley, an architect with the firm of Christianson, Reece and Partners P.C. It has been my pleasure to work with Brian for the last year, and I am writing this letter not at his request, but of my own desire to share my experiences with a truly talented architect.

It was a year ago that I first met Brian. I was hired as an assistant principal at Prairie Middle School and quickly found myself in charge of the new construction project, an addition to the front of the building consisting of 14 classrooms, a main office, and a teacher workroom, and two renovations within the building consisting of a new cafeteria and a new dean's office. Brian was the architect who designed all of those spaces, and I met him at the first meeting with the construction superintendent and the district representatives. The meetings were weekly affairs, and through the course of these meetings and Brian's regular visits to school, I came to know Brian as an intelligent, professional, dedicated and talented architect.

I was first struck by Brian's intellect. I knew architects were smart, but Brian amazed me with his knowledge of every aspect of construction. He doesn't just draw buildings; he *knows* buildings. There was not one single detail of the construction that he did not understand and keep track of. It was clear from the beginning that he was in charge of the project, and he kept it perfectly on schedule. He was a consummate professional during our meetings and during his site visits to the school. Every time I met with him, I grew to admire this about him more and more.

Brian's dedication to the project was extraordinary as well. His follow through was impeccable and his visits were regular. I had no idea architects were so very involved in all phases of construction. I could tell Brian did not look at Prairie as just another job. He cared enough to make sure every little detail was done *right*. Brian followed this project through at every level, and even now, several months after completion, he still calls to check on how we like our new surroundings.

In the end, however, I suppose there are a lot of intelligent, professional, and dedicated architects who draw ugly buildings. I have actually seen several of those. Brian does not do that. Our new addition, and our renovated spaces within the building, is nothing short

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of ASTOUNDING! The building is simply beautiful. Brian did a superb job at blending the existing structure with our needs and his artistic vision. The result draws exclamations of surprise and envy from everyone who visits. On a daily basis, I get comments from visitors and fellow educators regarding how beautiful the building is. Each morning when I enter our two-story clear window entrance and walk the radius to my office, I am amazed to be working in such a beautiful space. As crazy as it may sound, I have often sat in that main entrance hall on a bench watching the sun go down, and marveled at how the building looks with its reflective lighting and it's gorgeous symmetry. I assure you I am not the type to normally do such things. Many times, the principal and office staff join me. It is quite contagious. We owe it all to Brian. If you think for one second that I am making this up, call me, come visit, and see for yourself. Words do not do it justice. It is a great building.

Obviously, I recommend Brian Risley and the folks at Christianson, Reese and Partners P.C. for ANY construction project you are thinking of. It has been my honor, and my distinct pleasure to work with them. Enclosed, you will find a copy of the front page of one of our community newsletters. In the Principal's message, you can see Brian mentioned. If I ever get the chance to oversee a construction project again, I sincerely hope Brian Risley and Christianson Reese will oversee it. A visit to Prairie Middle School would convince you that you should feel the same way!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Poole".

Tony Poole
Assistant Principal
Prairie Middle School
Cherry Creek School District No. 5