

To Whom it May Concern:

4/12/2023

I am writing this letter in support of Mr. Carl Cole, and his Young Eagle Success (YES) program that we had participated in at Harlem Middle School. I have had the pleasure to work with Mr. Cole during two separate school years where I was able to observe and co-lead under his direction. This program was an opportunity for our students to reflect on their choices inside and outside of school and challenged our students to understand and accept responsibility for their own choices and actions.

Mr. Cole's approach to working with students is different from other interventions provided with his natural ability to connect with students. He allowed students to be themselves, which many times included behaviors not acceptable in classroom settings, while holding the students accountable without creating power struggles. Many of the students who participated in the groups found themselves regularly making poor choices that lead to missing school due to suspensions, detentions, or truancy, yet these students looked forward to coming to group meetings with more humility than in other school settings. Mr. Cole created an environment of support and accountability leading to a rapport many of the students struggled to find with other teachers or mentors in the school and was able to "chip away" at the walls these students formed due to trauma they experienced in their lives. Mr. Cole's experiences with at-risk youth in the community and direct understanding of many of the challenging situations that many students face outside of school helped students feel heard and seen in a way they may not have had in the past.

Mr. Cole worked with a total of four groups of students over the course of the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. This group may not be the best intervention for all students, but is a quality option for students who have struggled to connect with any mentor through other interventions. With this said, I recommend Mr. Carl Cole and the Young Eagle Success group to be an additional resource in your school. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Mike Kravitz
Middle School Counselor
Harlem Middle School
michael.kravitz@harlem122.org
815-654-4150 Ext:1260





April 12, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to take the opportunity to recommend Mr. Carl Cole and his Young Eagle Success (known as Y.E.S.) program. As Principal of Harlem Middle School, I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Mr. Cole for several years. He has been a tremendous teacher, mentor, and an asset to our students.

Two years ago, Mr. Cole introduced his Y.E.S. program to approximately 15 male students at our school. This was a challenging and new endeavor for him because these were some of the most difficult males who struggled academically, socially, emotionally, and behaviorally. Mr. Cole quickly integrated himself in the work and we did see a reduction in discipline at the conclusion of his curriculum with several of the students. Because of the success that we saw, I asked Mr. Cole to return for a second year and he agreed.

Mr. Cole has outstanding organizational skills. He is able to successfully complete multiple tasks with favorable results. Mr. Cole is motivated, energetic, flexible and willing to try new and innovative things to help all students be successful. He is always open to suggestions and seeks feedback on his performance.

It is for these reasons that I offer high recommendations for Mr. Carl Cole without reservation. His drive and abilities will truly be an asset to your establishment. If you have questions regarding this recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Educationally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jerry Harris'.

Jerry Harris / Principal
Harlem Middle School
(815) 654-4510



A Community of Leaders

Harlem Middle School ■ 735 Windsor Road, Loves Park 61111 ■ (815) 654-4510 ■ (815) 654-4540 (fax)



April 12, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend the Young Eagles Success Program, under the direction of Mr. Cole to your organization. The feedback that I have received from both administration and staff has been extremely positive. The interventions that he implements to help students is rooted in a deep desire to give them the support needed to be successful both in the classroom and life.

I am extremely grateful that Mr. Cole is willing to share his talents with our scholars. I look forward to our continued partnership. Again, I would like to express my sincere confidence in Mr. Cole working in your district. If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at either 815-654-4500 or

Terrell.Yarbrough@harlem122.org.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mr. Terrell Yarbrough'.

R. Terrell Yarbrough, Ed.D.
Superintendent



A Community of Leaders

8605 N. Second St., Machesney Park, IL 61115 ■ (815) 654-4500 ■ (815) 654-4600 (fax) ■ www.harlem122.org