

## Joseph C. Migliore - Profile

### Character -

Mr. Migliore has proven through 34 years of service to Suffield Public Schools that he is an exceptional teacher. His character is unrivaled by any other teacher within the district, and his abilities in the field of teaching performing arts is unmatched. On a personal level, Mr. Migliore has demonstrated the following qualities, all of which have left a positive impact on his students:

- He always puts others, including his students, before himself. Mr. Migliore never turns down an opportunity to go out of his way to assist a student. He is generous with his time and will go to great lengths to ensure a student excels in school, even if it is outside of his subject.
- Mr. Migliore presents himself with a sense of humbleness that cannot be seen by other teachers. In this regard, his presence in the classroom is more than that of a regular instructor. He is a role model for all of his students.
- At his core, Mr. Migliore displays an extra level of generosity. Whether it be treating Suffield's NCCC music students to dinner after the performance, purchasing props to engage the audience in a concert, or even purchasing lunch for a student that forgot their meal pass in Disney, he has never been shy when it comes to donating his own money for the music program.
- He always carries a sense of humor that can brighten anyone's day. No matter what, Mr. Migliore is capable of getting students to laugh, which is a large gift when going through the everyday hurdles of school. He helps students take their mind off of their hardships, and relax while still being able to enjoy the enrichment of music.
- In his field, Mr. Migliore is excellent. As a musician, he has the exceptional talent of being able to play just about any instrument possible, and it should be noted that he can play each one better than most. In the classroom, this gives him a remarkable edge, since he can isolate each section and demonstrate how to play on their instrument.
- When teaching, Mr. Migliore always includes a lesson that goes beyond music. Whether it be about having a positive attitude or some other essential life lesson, there is always something more to learn. In this manner, he is more than just a music teacher. He teaches lessons that most students would argue are more valuable than anything that would be received from a Life Education class.
- Last, but most certainly not least, Mr. Migliore has demonstrated an exceptional level of patience. It goes without saying a classroom size of 50+ students helps to test this trait frequently, and Mr. Migliore has never failed to overcome the obstacle that is routy students. He is patient and yet still able to carry on with the lesson, which ultimately refocuses his students.

## **Events -**

Mr. Migliore has dedicated an unfathomable amount of his own time delivering a plethora of performances throughout the Suffield community, as well as at the state and national level. Rain or shine, one could always count on the Suffield High School band to be in attendance, and Mr. Migliore always made it a performance to remember. Below is a list of a few of the events that Mr. Migliore and the band have been a part of:

- Relay For Life
- Memorial Day Parade
- The Big E
- SHS Football games
- SHS graduation ceremony
- Seasonal Concerts & The Pops Concert
- Jazz Band
- Performance at Disney every 4 years
- Performance at Hershey Park (Discontinued)
- The NCCC Music Festival (Was hosted at Suffield High School this year)
- Band 'caroling' prior to the holiday break

## **Classes -**

Over the years, Mr. Migliore has been willing to adapt a variety of new classes as they became offered by the school. He has been teaching band since he started with Suffield Public Schools 34 years ago. At one point, he began offering an additional class for those seeking additional mastery of their instrument, which came in the form of Jazz Band. He has continued to offer this course to this very day, which he stays after school to teach. With the addition of Wildcat Time to the schedule this year, he has taken advantage of the extra time to teach Jazz Band during the school day, as well as after school.

He has been teaching piano classes off and on based on the availability of the instruments. When he started teaching, music technology was an unheard of subject. He was the first teacher in the district to offer the course once it became available, and it has since been switched to being taught by the chorus teacher. Since last year, Mr. Migliore is now also offering a guitar class, using the guitars that have been brought over from the Middle School.

Mr. Migliore has been an exceptional role model for his students. He has single-handedly changed students lives, all while teaching them a skill that becomes a lifelong passion. His personality represents all the core values that are advertised by the school. His dedication to the school and the town cannot be compared with other teachers, as Mr. Migliore has always gone above and beyond for his students. The connection he makes with each of his students is one that no other teacher provides.

Frank Pacocha, Jr.  
2706 Lovett Lane  
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Joe Migliore began teaching with me in the old Suffield high school and is a highly effective music educator. We almost immediately developed a mutual respect and co-operation in our job responsibilities.

Joe is an accomplished pianist who accompanied the high school performers during the successful grand scale musicals of the 1970's and 1980's held at the old Suffield High School. He spent many hours volunteering his time.

On our trips to Europe, Joe was responsible and attentive to chaperoning. He recognized situations among the students and responded to diffuse any potential problems. Having 30 to 40 teenagers, 24/7 for 10 days is not an easy task.

As the music department began to grow in staff size, Joe interacted with the "newbies" and was always available to answer any questions or problems they wanted or needed to discuss.

Joe became the first music educator at the new Suffield High School and seamlessly made the adjustment for the students. He has the ability to relate to teenagers and is attentive to their needs. His dedication to the music department and its growth is evident as Joe added piano classes and a Jazz Band with rehearsals on Tuesday evenings. Many more musical opportunities became available by him since I retired. He added a trip to Disney with the Suffield High School Band performing.

A Joseph Migliore Auditorium would be a most fitting recognition of the many music opportunities Joe has offered the students of Suffield High School.

To whom it may concern,

I have worked with Joseph Migliore since the fall of 2016 in the music department at Suffield High School.

As a new teacher, I couldn't have asked for a better officemate or mentor. During my first year, Mr. Migliore made me aware of things I wouldn't have known about on my own such as what form to fill out for purchasing music, or how to put in a request to use a room. He always takes the time to give me advice or to answer all of the many questions I ask. Beyond that, Mr. Migliore will always ask about my day, and he will do his best to cheer me up if I am not feeling my best.

Mr. Migliore is an inspiring teacher to his students. His music students say nothing but positive things about him and his classes. He is thoughtful in his repertoire choices and uses effective assessments. Outside of school, Mr. Migliore goes above and beyond to give music students opportunities such as the NCCC music festival and Connecticut Northern Regionals.

Beyond teaching, Mr. Migliore cares about his students and coworkers' well-being. He is willing to lend an ear and give advice to other teachers and students. I can tell that his students feel comfortable when they need to talk to him about something, and that he really cares about what they have to say. Our mutual students show genuine disappointment whenever he is absent for a day.

My year and a half of working with Joseph Migliore has been a pleasure. He is helpful, caring, and an overall fantastic teacher and mentor.

Sincerely,

Mary DiRoberts

Dear Suffield Board of Education,

I am writing this letter in support of naming the performing arts center in Mr. Joseph Migliore's name. I recently met Mr. Migliore in November as the guest conductor with the NCCC Concert Band and from the moment I met him, I knew that he was an extremely well-liked teacher and colleague. Mr. Migliore immediately greeted me and welcomed me to Suffield High School. I felt instantly at ease and got to chatting with him about the school, the band at SHS and the festival. While at the festival, I had the opportunity to speak with other teachers from the NCCC and they only had positive things to say about Mr. Migliore as an educator and as an upstanding human being. Anytime I saw Mr. Migliore during the festival, he always made sure to ask if I needed anything and I did, he would run off and come back, what seemed like, in seconds.

I hope this letter helps the Board of Education consider naming the performing arts center in Mr. Migliore's name and please do not hesitate to contact me if you need more information or have other questions.

Thank you,

Kevin Lam

Instrumental Music Director, Valley Regional HS

Group Lessons Teacher, John Winthrop MS

NCCC Concert Band Conductor, 2017

To whom it may concern,

I graduated with the class of 1989, and I played flute in the band for all four years at Suffield High. I loved band with Mr. Migliore - his quirky sense of humor, obvious love of music, and easy manner with the kids all contributed to what was a great experience for all of us. I can remember being so excited when we learned Mr. Migliore was getting married, and then again excited when we learned they were expecting a baby (who I still think of as a baby, though of course that is no longer true!). I loved marching in the Memorial Day Parade, and had such fun playing the school's piccolo when we did.

My senior year, the band went on a trip to see "Les Miserables" on Broadway, and it was one of the most meaningful experiences of my high school years. We had seats in the front row, center, and the show was incredible. It remains my favorite musical to this day (which is saying a lot, since I LOVE musical theatre!). I also got introduced to other wonderful music experiences by Mr. Migliore - CT Northern Regionals, NCCC, and Laurel Music Camp. I have remained in touch with some of the friends I made at Laurel - it's a magical place.

After living for 20 years in Georgia, my family and I moved to Suffield last year. My oldest child is in 6th grade this year, and she is *loving* playing her clarinet. I'm hopeful she'll get to have Mr. Migliore as *her* band director for at least her freshman year, as I did - I know she'd enjoy playing with him just as much as I did. If he retires before then, my whole family wishes him the greatest happiness!

Mr. Migliore, thank you so much for your gift of music to us all! I'll always be grateful for the experiences you brought to me, and to us all at SHS.

Warmly,

Suzanne Richardson-White

To whom it may concern,

My name is David Lingenfelter. I graduated from Suffield High School in 1989. I played percussion in both concert and marching band and have many fond memories of my time spent in the music wing of the school.

Looking back, I think Joe understood that not all of us were going to go on to be great musicians, and some of us, myself included, would probably never pick up an instrument again after leaving the Suffield High School halls. But he made it enjoyable for us and worked with each of us, no matter what level of musical talent we had. He kept our interest, and helped us learn, not just music, but how to act and react under different situations.

Joe had a way of working with the kids, pushing us to be better, be independent, work as a group and, at the end of the day, be able to perform together. Being part of band was more than just playing an instrument and having our parents show up for concerts. He took us beyond the halls of the high school to see some of the biggest shows on Broadway. He wanted us to not just learn music, but experience it.

There are many parts of high school I have forgotten, or have chosen to forget, but band is one area I like to remember. The further away from high school I get the more I recognize how much influence being part of the band has had on my life. I probably can't play a single note of music any more, but that's not a reflection on Joe. The reflection, the memories I have, of learning that there is so much more to music than just playing notes is something I'll never forget, and will hopefully pass on to my kids.

David Lingenfelter

Class of 1989

When I was first asked to write this letter, I knew that I couldn't say enough about Joe Migliore. From the time I met him as our 5th grade band instructor, to standing beside him on my graduation day, I knew if there was one teacher who had a profound influence on my education, as well as myself, it was him. Seeing as how my passion is music, it would make sense that I'd take a liking to any music teacher, but Migs was different. He would go any distance to help me become a better player, whether it was one on one, or with a room full of people. The man has the patience of nobody else I've seen, I have no idea how he's been able to deal with my peers and I for as long as he has, but hey, more power to him. As well as being an amazing teacher, he is an even better person. He has one of the biggest hearts I've seen, and I've always been able to feel like I can trust him with anything. His jokes during band class and anecdotes he tells brightened up even the worst days. He is also responsible for the best times I've had in high school. Whether that be the school trip to Disney, the annual Big E performances, or the football games we've played at, every single part has all been thanks to him. It's no surprise that he ranks as many people's favorite teacher. Every graduating class has made it a tradition to give him a parting gift, in order to show their appreciation for him, and the lasting impression he's made. How many other teachers can you say that about? I can't say enough nice things about Mr. Migliore because I'd simply run out of paper. He has truly been the greatest teacher I've ever had, and the best part of my high school experience.

Thank you Migs, for everything.

- Ryan Bedlack



Dear Migs,

I don't think I will ever be able to thank you enough for all that you did as my teacher and role model. Not only did you make me a better musician but you have also made me a better person. Band in high school gave me the greatest memories of my life. All of my friends from high school are somehow connected through band. The way you made the band room feel like a place I could reach beyond my comfort zone is something I have never found in any other classroom. Not only did you inspire me to be a better student but you inspired me to become a teacher one day and just hope to be at least half the teacher you are. While most think us band kids are weird, nerdy, and not cool, I have found that us kids in band are actually some of the most interesting people I have ever met. Your class taught me how to get through the tough times and enjoy the better times. I can't tell you how many times I would feel stressed or have a rough day but then I would remember I had band 5th period and that was going to make me feel better. I dreaded Tuesdays because we didn't have band (but then there was jazz band so I guess that made Tuesdays better). Most teachers don't joke around with their students, but we knew we could joke with you and often push your buttons because we had your respect and you had ours. If I had to pick one band memory that was my favorite it was definitely the Disney trip. I know you might hear that one a lot but for me it truly was one of my favorite trips I have ever been on. You trusted us to roam around the parks by ourselves (which is a miracle considering you knew that Adam, Josh, Pullen, and I were not the easiest to handle). I'm sure that trip added some grey hairs for you but I hope you know that it is something that I will never forget and some my friends and I still talk about when we hangout. Also eating lunch in the band room was another favorite memory of mine and I can't tell you how much I miss those days. I want you to know that I will forever be an advocate for music being a part of our education system and I will make an effort to go to every concert you have because I remember how much work it took to get the band ready for that night on stage. I remember the first day of band when you told me to go grab the tuba without a case and when I saw that tuba I thought it was made from a cannon from the Civil War. My friends and I call that tuba "Old Glory" and I haven't ever played a better tuba than that one. Thanks so much for the best 4 years of my life and I don't think I will ever be able to repay you for all that you have taught me. I hope to stay in touch and definitely hope to see you at a concert soon. Hope all is well and thanks again Migs!

From,

Nick Vavalle

To whom it may concern:

I had Mr. Joe Migliore for band when I was in high school. I played in the band for 3 years. Band was always one of my favorite classes in high school. Although I didn't have many friends in band, everyone was always so nice to each other and had something to bond over. Mr. Migliore has such enthusiasm about his job and the music he chooses to have us play. He would always be excited to have us play new music even if we didn't like to play it ourselves, but we did it because it made him so happy. He always knew how to reinforce us with good criticism and how to make us do our parts better, we would play a part over and over until it was right. He wanted us to be great. He never gave up on us.

You would never see Mr. Migliore without a smile on his face. He is one of the happiest men I knew. He has the best sense of humor and you can always crack a joke with him.

The best memory I have with him is when we went to Disney World in my sophomore year in 2013. We did a whole day of playing at a workshop and have our music played over a scene from a Disney movie. It was amazing. Every four years he goes and band members always get so excited about going. The other field trips and performances were always huge successes - all thanks to his ability to wow masses of people with the pieces that he works so diligently to put together.

Mr. Migliore deserves this because he works so hard and he loves his job more than most teachers and educators. I will always remember him as a teacher that got me through high school and a highlight of every day. This project is such a huge honor to participate in and I can't think of anybody more fitting for this.

Sincerely,

Stephanie M Hansen

Class of 2015



The Around Town Singers and Orchestra, Inc.  
www.AroundTownSingers.org  
Daniel K. Kehoe, Founding Director  
P.O. Box 136 ■ Windsor Locks, Connecticut 06096

February 13, 2018

The Suffield Board of Education  
c/o 350 Mountain Road  
Suffield, CT 06078

Suffield Public Schools

FEB 21 2017

Superintendent's Office

To the Board:

I am writing in support of Mr. Joe Migliore, Suffield High School music teacher, and in response to the groundswell of support to add his name to the Suffield Performing Arts Center moniker.

Joe is certainly a staple of the SHS music scene, going back even to the days when our daughters benefited from his musical direction in the school band. I was always especially cognizant and appreciative of his expertise in jazz leanings, something which he has always fervently shared with and encouraged in his students through some of his after school work.

Like many other music teachers in the system, Joe was also supportive of my Around Town Singers organization, perhaps because of the opportunity it gave his more advanced students to further their playing skills in an outside group. I know that we enjoyed having many of his students in our ATS&O orchestra for almost every one of our fifteen major shows, and that alone is a testament to his teaching skill and dedication to his instrumental charges.

Please add my name to the list endorsing this movement to add Joe's name this facility.

Sincerely,

Daniel K. Kehoe  
Founding Director  
The Around Town Singers and Orchestra, Inc.