



**SLINGER HIGH SCHOOL**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SLINGER  
209 Polk Street • Slinger, WI 53086



**Tel: (262) 644-5261 • Fax: (262) 644-0479**

Dear Gateway Friends,

I'm really not quite where to start, but I have to tell you that this trip was without a doubt the best trip we've ever taken. I'm truly proud and honored to be associated with all the fine people at Gateway and I can't thank you enough for everything you did to make this experience so special for the kids and parents of Slinger High School.

Lauren and Angie, you are truly amazing. How you pulled this off and made it work so seemingly effortlessly is beyond me. I salute you and congratulate you on the great work you did. I know how hard it is to make things like this work with one band, but you did it with thirteen bands. The entire trip was flawless.

Kate, you're as good they come. I was so impressed with your energy and with your patience. Even when things looked as if they weren't going to work you made it happen, and the smile never left your face. That sense of confidence was comforting. I never had to worry because you did all the work. Our parents and kids honestly really came to love and appreciate you. I wish you could have heard all the flattering comments about the way you handled things. It was a real pleasure and honor to work with you. The highest compliment I can pay you is to tell you that I'd be proud to work with you again. You're the best because you pay attention to every little detail and that's what makes a trip like this so special.

Leslie, you were absolutely outstanding. Your smile, warmth, confidence, and composure were also comforting to our kids when they had questions. Never once did I see a student ask you a question and not walk away with a smile on their face. Everyone was very comfortable coming to you. You were a good listener and an equally good problem solver; all of which is very important on a trip of this magnitude.

Our tour guide Boyd was equally amazing. My kids are still talking about how "cool" Boyd was. He helped to make some magic happen with my band. He brought them together in a way that I didn't expect. My band is different today because of him.

And finally, a special thank you for the special care that I received. It's difficult to find the words to express my sincere appreciation for the magnificent way we were all treated. You made me, my band and all of our chaperons feel special. I have had the privilege and honor of working with some of the best tour companies in the nation and I can testify that Gateway is as good as the best. Your attention to detail and your sincere caring attitude towards all of our participants helped to make this trip, a trip of a lifetime. Hawaii is indeed a great place to perform, but having the opportunity to share those wonderful performance opportunities with our Gateway friends made it even more special. I salute you on a superb job. Working with you has been one of the most pleasurable experiences in my career. I look forward to working with you again in the future.

Sincerely,

David T. Hanke  
Director of Bands  
Slinger High School

• VIC ERICKSON  
*Principal*

• MICHAEL KNUTSON  
*Associate Principal*

• JENNY BOYD  
*Dean of Students*

• DOUG RIESOP  
*Athletic Director*