

# Sherwood Cass R-VIII School District

Office of the Superintendent

Steve Ritter, Ed.D.

steve.ritter@sherwoodk12.net

660-499-2239 ext. 4

---

March 19, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter of support for Tina McCord and Zuni Learning Tree. We are excited to partner with Zuni and begin providing its services to our teachers, students, and parents. As someone who is excited about the possibilities of Open Educational Resources (OERs) and digital learning resources, I have found Zuni to be just what we need!

OERs allow teachers to find the best resource available for teaching the unique group of students in his or her classroom. Just like every student is different, each lesson and each resource can be tailored for the student's benefit. In a world of tight budgets and the desire to have technology in the hands of students, OERs provide the opportunity to redirect funds to technology and curriculum enhancement instead of a static textbook that won't have the latest information. Allowing teachers to vet the best resources for our kids now becomes the primary focus for teachers in the construction of their lessons. At Sherwood, we encourage our teachers to find their top three (3) resources for lessons:

1. A primary resource for teaching a lesson
2. A resource to be used for interventions when a student has difficulty learning it the first time
3. A resource that will help parents work with their child at home (such as a video explaining the learning goal, a process, or additional practice).

The great thing about Zuni is it is helping us to find all three! Having vetted resources already grouped by grade level, subject area, and type of resource is saving my teachers many hours of searching through a number of different resources to look for the best resource. The time it takes to jump from website to website is cut out by utilizing the resources Zuni Learning Tree is compiling. As I have presented multiple times around the State of Missouri highlighting OERs, it is great to now add Zuni as a great resource for educators. If I can be of any help going forward, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Steve Ritter, EdD