

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 10, 2016

Mrs. Stephens's Class
Lincoln Elementary School
Pana, Illinois

Dear Students:

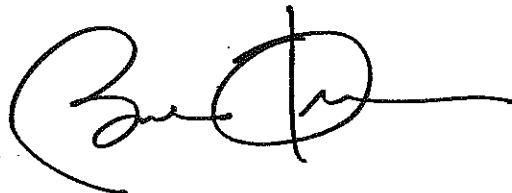
Thank you for sending Flat Stanley to the White House. I am pleased to report that he worked hard, listened carefully, and had a lot of fun!

Your friend's visit came at a time of great hope and opportunity for our Nation. He mentioned how much you wanted to learn about what goes on at the White House, and I was happy to have him join me on my daily activities. In the morning, he walked with me through the halls of the West Wing and joined me for meetings in the Oval Office with my senior staff and many guests. Flat Stanley got a chance to tour the East Wing and study its beautiful rooms and artwork on display. At the end of the day, he came with me to the South Lawn and played catch with our dogs, Bo and Sunny, as the sun set over Washington, D.C. Of course, he also said hello to First Lady Michelle Obama. We always enjoy having visitors at the White House.

He told me how surprised he was by the important role reading, writing, math, and science all play in my job. As a lifelong student, and as President, I use these skills every day. I can tell you with certainty that whatever path you choose, the things you learn in school and the extra reading and exploration you do outside of school will always be helpful to you in your life.

Flat Stanley was engaging, interested, and showed up to the White House each morning with a pencil in hand, ready to learn. It was a pleasure to have him here. As I send him back to you, I urge you to bring that same thirst for knowledge to your classroom and passion for serving others to your community. Together, we will make America even better in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style.