I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Nick Harris who is seeking a teaching position with your school. I taught Nick as a middle school student many years ago, and he has since worked as a student-teacher in my classroom during the '10-'11 school year here at The American School in Japan. After observing in my seventh grade classroom for a number of weeks, Nick successfully planned and taught a mini-unit that prepared my students for their upcoming extended campus trip to Hiroshima. As a teacher, he exhibited a strong sense of professionalism and sincerity in his teaching style, and crafted lessons and activities that challenged and engaged students.

I have known many teachers over the past 20 plus years of teaching. Some know all the tricks, but don't have teaching in their heart. While one can learn the "skills" of our profession, it's more difficult to instill a love of being with students as part of their learning journey. Although Nick is just getting his feet wet in education, one can clearly see his rapport with students and keen interest in bringing ideas and promoting inquiry in the classroom. I am very confident in recommending Nick for the teaching position he is applying for, and that he will be an asset to any educational institution that he works for.

Please don't hesitate to contact me concerning Nick's time working with me, or with any other questions about his candidacy.

Sincerely, Dan Smith

The American School in Japan dsmith@asij.ac.jp