

October 20, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

I write this letter as a recommendation for my former colleague Nickolas Harris. As his department head, MUN advising assistant and colleague for three years, I feel confident that I am qualified to speak on his behalf and provide a strong recommendation for Nick as he pursues his future professional opportunities.

Within the first month of being hired to teach at Korea International School, Jeju, Nick began communicating with me regarding our MUN program. He was interested in what had been done and what the possibilities were for its future. Still six months away from actually starting his position, Nick was building the program, creating an MUN class, and expanding the conference schedule. This level of enthusiasm shown by Nick continued throughout my years working with him. As a result of Nick's passion for creating a better MUN program, our students gained valuable learning and debating experiences and skills while also embracing the ideals of true global citizenship. Nick challenged and encouraged students to go beyond an "in the box" mindset, of a typical MUN experience by promoting an outside of "the box" approach by introducing innovative and exciting ways of "doing" MUN and by hosting both local and international conferences every year at KISJ.

While I first think of Nick regarding his positive influence in MUN, this is not to discount his role as an innovative classroom educator. Nick's enthusiasm for student learning and success in his classroom is yet another area of strength. His energy and passion for whatever concept or topic he is teaching, inspires both planned and impromptu debates with his students with Nick often playing the "devil's advocate" to promote deeper thinking from his students. He creates an atmosphere of fun, yet rigorous learning by offering engaging learning opportunities to promote high interest and higher levels of learning through fostering positive student relationships, high engagement activities and using technology and real world connections to improve academic skills and intellectual growth. Whether coaching soccer or MUN, or through his innovative classroom activities, Nick exemplifies the important skills of connecting with his students, holding them accountable and encouraging them to go beyond what is required or what they thought possible. His classroom is often a gathering spot at the end of the day as his students are well aware that if Nick is not busy coaching or advising, he is there for them. Nick's level of energy and enthusiasm is endless when it comes to connecting with students.

Nick embodies the qualities that we seek to foster in young adults. He has a keen sense of intellectual curiosity and willingness to continue growing in his own education. Nick is willing and excited to take on new professional challenges in teaching and learning as evidenced by his developing the AP Seminar and Research classes at KISJ. He is a 21st century learner and educator and a supportive team player and collaborator. I had the distinct pleasure to watch him evolve as a young teacher, willing to ask the right questions in how to better frame his pedagogy to becoming a teacher that inspires others through his dedication to student learning and his commitment to successful practices in teaching. Despite his own rigorous teaching and coaching schedule, Nick has continued to engage in professional development throughout the time I have known him, setting an example for his colleagues and students and making him a valued member of his academic community.

I confidently recommend Nick Harris and am happy to provide any further details or information if necessary.

Sincerely,

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