

RECOMMENDATION LETTER

Drew Sparkman was my colleague at SEK Budapest International School for four years. Because we both taught in the IB system, and both of us taught group 1 languages, we had a lot of common work. I got to know Drew as a professionally trained teacher. Drew was a very versatile teacher, as he began teaching in the kindergarten. After three months, he filled an unexpected vacancy in the IB program without any experience. In the IB system, he ended up teaching TOK, English B, English A: Literature, and English A: Language and Literature. In addition to the above, he organized several workshops, he was a tutor for several classes and he always participated in school events.

When he came to our school, he was always open to new knowledge, accepting help if he did not know something. Over time, our relationship changed a bit – now I'm the one who often has questions and I need his help. At this moment, Drew is the teacher who knows the most about the IB system. He is aware of all its "finesse", its rules, the essence of the program. He knows not only the requirements of his own specialized subject, but also the whole set of rules, procedures and the related websites that are connected to the IB program.

His personality is characterized by openness and honesty. In his communication, he is clear about his expectations, what he wants or what problem we need to solve together. Personally, I consider this to be his greatest strength and that is also true for his communication with students, colleagues and school leaders.

Beyond the above, Drew's versatility is not only seen in his readiness and openness, but also in his ability to develop and learn. For example, learning languages. He has learned Hungarian during his stay here. He speaks Spanish fluently (our school is based on three languages: Hungarian, English, Spanish), and he speaks French as well.

Drew is always empathetic to the students, and he treats everyone equally. In his evaluation, he is fair and consistent. Perhaps because of this latter trait, or perhaps because of his personality, the bottom line is that he is loved and respected by his students. When the students learned that Drew would leave the school, they wrote a petition to the leadership to do everything in their power so that he could continue teaching here.

Among his colleagues, he is absolutely honored because of his open communication, for his unquestionable expertise, and for his co-operative work. During the time I spent with him, I

never heard him speaking negatively about his colleagues behind their backs. He was helpful to everyone.

It is extremely important for Drew to find new ways of teaching and implementing them. For example, a few months ago he created a website that serves the IB students and colleagues alike. The website mainly contains information about the extended essays, but he has created, written, shared, edited many other useful things. I know he is never satisfied with his current knowledge. He is always looking for courses he can take to deepen his knowledge: intensive workshops, continuing education, language learning courses. His prospective employer can gain a truly ambitious, highly skilled, ready-to-develop, innovative, and open-minded employee.

If I look at his teaching talent, he is good with an older age group of students, especially in a group of academically strong and motivated learners who can deal with not only English but also literature at a high level. However, it is important to point out that not only in teaching, but also in other areas of life, where self-reflection, communication, and cooperation are important. I do not know if such a letter of recommendation can have a formal ending that I thank Mr. Drew for the four years working together and the support that has come from either helping with school events, or helping me solve various professional issues.

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Réka Verckei