



NORWIN HIGH SCHOOL

NORWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

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To Whom It May Concern:

Rarely does a teacher have the pleasure to encounter a student like Charlie Blenko. Students frequently request recommendation letters and it is usually easy to write praiseworthy comments to supplement their college applications. With Charlie's qualities however, there is a challenge in narrowing all the appropriate praises. One might argue that Charlie is the superlative of any academic adjective you could think to describe a student. In an effort to avoid repeating his scholarly accolades, allow me to demonstrate how this is also true for two other areas I have witnessed throughout Charlie's career at Norwin High School.

The first of these characteristics is Charlie's leadership ability. His leadership abilities have matured so far above that of his peers that the word *potential* cannot even be used, as it is too limiting. Charlie has demonstrated the confidence it takes to navigate an organization (such as Model United Nations or the History Club) on its proper course and he has demonstrated the tact required to work with all manner of people. Furthermore, he understands the mechanics of leadership. Combined with each of the experiences and tools he is presently equipped with, he will be ready to charge into the next opportunity, challenge, or practicum that presents itself in higher education and the workplace, thereby further enhancing his repertoire.

The second characteristic enabling Charlie to shine brighter than his peers is displayed in his diversity of interests. Charlie not only seeks self-improvement through multiple life experiences, he passionately enjoys doing them. He can speak inspiringly about Fred Rogers in one conversation then easily transition to Pennsylvania railroad history in the next. Charlie's immersion in numerous school and community organizations gives him ample opportunity to develop skills, knowledge, and exposure to many experiences beyond the academic world; such intangible experiences are more than just helpful to growth and success, they are necessary. It is evident that Charlie has matured rapidly toward adulthood through the many conversations he and I have had on a wide variety of topics. Whether in class or after school, Charlie would extend class discussions, synthesizing our studies with current events, historical issues, and other academic disciplines. The range of his intellect is astounding!

Returning to the topic of academics as I close, I appreciated that while my student, Charlie motivated me to be a better teacher. With his vast wealth of knowledge and ability to retain extensive amounts of information read in the text almost verbatim, I was required to increase my own background knowledge of topics. The best people in this world are those who bring out the best in others, leaving a person or place better off than before. Charlie Blenko is that type of person, and any institution he chooses should be enthused to be the place where he can impart that improvement on others around him, while in turn being a place that does the same for Charlie.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Bartels

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Through quality educational experiences, the Norwin School District prepares students to become productive and responsible citizens in an ever-changing global society.