



October 15, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my great honor to recommend Payton Ferris for your program. I have worked with Payton since her freshman year—first as a teacher, later as her academic advisor, and most recently as her director in the school play. Our earliest interaction, however, predates her time as a student, as Payton first came to my attention during a tour of The Ellis School. I was impressed by the poise, curiosity, and exuberance of this particular 8<sup>th</sup> grader, and I made the effort to contact our admissions committee on her behalf. A thirty-minute visit to my classroom was all Payton needed to leave a lasting impression on me; the four years since have been enough time for her to leave a resounding legacy for our whole community. As I said back then, I say once more: consider this individual closely, she is truly special.

As you know from her résumé, Payton has followed her creative impulses from the choir room to the art studio; she has starred in multiple Ellis theatre productions and started her own a cappella group; and she has proven herself just as comfortable behind a camera as she is behind a trombone. Indeed, she is a dynamo in both the performing and visual arts, and her achievements are many. Most notable of her passions is a commitment to script writing. An avid cinephile, Payton makes no secret of her aspirations to write for the screen. Along with taking my screenwriting and playwriting classes, she has sought opportunities in local theatre festivals, as well as precollege programs. Furthermore, I have seen Payton conscript her peers for table-readings and short movies. I have no doubt that she is going to ‘make it’ as a storytelling artist, as she is committed to making stories now.

I trust in Payton’s readiness for a place in your community. I envision her comforting dorm-mates away from home for the first time. I see her excelling in the university classroom, just as she has in ours. I imagine her taking delight in all that is around her, and reinvesting that joy in your campus. As you search for those special individuals who combine talent with character, please consider this student closely. I have no doubt that Payton will be a terrific contributor to your program, and a proud representative of ours.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Israel  
Visual Arts Teacher  
The Ellis School

