



Mr. Eric Hewitt, Principal ..... Ext. 1022

Mr. Neil English, Instructional Principal ..... Ext. 1021

February 25, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased and honored to write this letter on behalf of Jack Harden. Jack is among the very best students at our school who has excelled beyond the classroom as a leader of both our Golf and Model U.N. Teams. Beyond his academic and leadership ability, Jack is a young man with a good heart who is always willing to step in when the chips are down and help make an impending disaster a success. For these reasons and others, I am pleased to recommend Jack for the Trib Total Media Outstanding Young Citizen scholarship.

Jack was in my AP Language and Composition class last year and he was a genuine pleasure to have in class. Jack always came to class prepared and ready. His written work always went beyond expectations as good was never good enough. When discussion would flag as my students seemed lost and unsure of what the text meant, I could count on Jack to have the courage to step up and provide a well thought out response which helped regenerate the class discussion. As a student Jack is sharp and focused. He has an exceptional talent for logical argumentation and knows how to organize and support an argument for maximum effect. He is also exceptional at producing clean, direct and finely honed analytical writing. He has a lawyer's precision balanced with enough heart to compel the reader's attention. It was no surprise for me when Jack finished the year with an A in my class, a place where A's are not common place. This talent also made him the most valuable member of our Model U.N Team as he was able to quickly assess the situation and issues they were assigned as well as the information and mood of the room and put together a smart, compelling, and persuasive argument. He has a rare ability to be both witty and forceful in an argument. As you might expect, Jack is much more than a good English student. He has taken most if not all of our most rigorous courses including: Physics, Calculus, AP Language and Composition, and AP U.S. History and excelled in all of them.

Beyond the classroom Jack has been involved with a number of academic extra-curricular activities and competitions including: Model UN, Carnegie Mellon University Software Engineering Institute, Cyber Challenge, Cyber Patriot, Bots IQ, Calcu-Solve and the Shaler STEAM competition. Jack has also taken on leadership positions with our most important clubs and activities including Model United Nations President, and our Ambassador at the International Model UN competition in Rome. He has been the History Club Secretary, Student Council Treasurer, as well as been involved with the Biology Club, the Junior Prom Committee and was a News Anchor for our in house broadcast, RVTV. Not surprisingly, he was elected Senior Class President by his peers. Jack is also a talented trumpeter who has played in our Marching Band, our Concert Band, our Jazz Band and our Wind Ensemble. Jack is that kid who throws himself into everything and somehow figures out how he can do everything well. He is also a talented athlete who was the Captain of our Golf Team, played on our Basketball team and has played on our Tennis team.

There is something you need to know about Jack that goes beyond his ability to achieve so much. He is much more than just another striving, ambitious student with an eye towards a lucrative career. While Jack likes to present a slightly sarcastic, devil-may-care, façade, you don't have to dig deep to find a caring and concerned side. He is a natural leader who inspires as much as he commands. He is a volunteer who finds time to give back to the communities who need so much. I am the assistant Golf Coach and Jack was our captain. He has been without question our best team captain. He knew when and how to tamp down anxiety and help players relax before a tough match. He knew when and how to let a team mate know they had to step up and be more responsible. Jack helped organize summer golf and then made sure everyone who had no way of getting to the course could get a ride. Jack would consult with the coaches before matches to help arrange the best pairings for that days match. He also modeled how to play competitive golf. His mood never changed. He was always composed and enthusiastic. He had fun, but never took a match lightly. He did not get down on himself after a bad hole and never got too jubilant after a good

hole. I have never seen a player who was so good at recovering from a bad hole and finding ways to almost always post our best score. On top of that, he played with honor and integrity which was an approach he spread throughout our whole team. Our team not only respects Jack as our best player, they admire him because he is an inspiring leader. While I am not connected to the Model United Nations Team, I imagine those same qualities are why he was chosen as their President this year and why he was selected as a junior to lead our top team members in a competition in Rome, where they came back as the best team from a field of 16 international teams. Beyond our school, Jack recognizes that there are needs in our community. Jack has played taps for the Elks at for Veteran Day and for the American Legion for the Oakmont Memorial Day celebration. He has also volunteered at the Kerr Museum, our local history museum. But most importantly he has volunteered with Operation Safety Net at UPMC Mercy Hospital and at the Emergency Department at Allegheny General Hospital because he feels a calling to be there for people in need.

I recommend Jack because he is exceptionally smart, hardworking and well organized. I recommend Jack because he is a leader who commands respect and inspires those he leads to work and perform at their best. But I also recommend Jack because he cares about the welfare of those around him as well as our community and our nation. I recommend Jack because our world needs capable, responsible and conscientious leaders. During a time of great polarization around the world, when so many of our leaders are all too willing to ruthlessly exploit our differences and turn us against each other, we are in great need of young leaders who can pull us together and remind us that in the end, we are all human beings trying to live lives of purpose and meaning. Jack Harden is that kind of young leader and I am convinced that with your scholarship, Jack will help us all work together to build a future that is better for all. I can't think of a better reason to get an education or a better use or a person more deserving of the Trib Total Media Outstanding Young Citizens Scholarship.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Carlin