

Joelene M. Hester
138 9th Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15229

October 1, 2018

To whom it may concern:

I am honored to write this letter of recommendation for Josh Heidenreich. It has been my pleasure to have Josh in class three times and to watch him mature into an outstanding young man over the years. I have also had the privilege of working alongside Josh for multiple student-led projects at Montour High School. Josh's drive to achieve academically, his passion for his activities, and his commitment to helping others have proven that he is a well-rounded, mature young man who is ready to succeed in the next phases of his life.

Academically, Josh is driven and ready to be challenged. Josh doesn't shy away from the challenging courses, yet he has achieved High Honor Roll every term in high school. Josh has served as a teaching assistant in the Research and Writing Lab and as a Chemistry Lab Assistant. He has been awarded the Extra Effort Award and an AP Scholar Award. I can continue to list off academic achievements from his impressive résumé, but having seen Josh use a dry erase marker and a large white board to reteach Calculus to his classmates speaks more to his academic prowess as well as his leadership abilities. Students look up to Josh and look to Josh for help when they struggle, and that speaks volumes.

In addition to his commitment to academics, Josh is not only involved in but is also a leader of multiple activities. I am constantly impressed at his ability to give his all in both fields while sacrificing nothing in either. Josh is a WPIAL soccer champion and was Defensive Player of the Year for his team. He's secretary of National Honor Society and Vice President of Law Team. He's also an active member in the Global Leadership Certification Program run through the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh. Josh's strengths include the ability to prioritize his responsibilities, manage his time well, stay cool under pressure, and delegate appropriately. He is the kind of leader that makes others want to do well.

Every teacher appreciates having a student who cares about his academic performance, is pleasant to be around, and is consistent in his work. However, when a student also shows empathy and respect to others, I am eternally grateful to have had the privilege of knowing a student like that in my career. Josh has a way of making others feel included and at ease. I have honestly never heard him say an unkind word to another student. He is genuinely a nice person, and he is able to draw others into also being kind just by being himself. Josh has been the leader of Change Agents, a group dedicated to addressing social injustice at Montour. Currently, he is leading our Stand Together group of 31 students as they complete schoolwide projects to break the stigma of mental health and drug use disorders to help make Montour a more accepting school. Related to that project is the Speak To Me room, which Josh is also the student leader for this year. Students volunteer in the room to support their peers who are dealing with stress and anxiety. Josh meets with me regularly, manages executive tasks like application and interview processes, and keeps the procedures running smoothly. Having projects like Speak To Me and Stand Together at Montour has drastically changed the culture at this school. Josh has been a leader in effecting this change.

On a personal note, I have said to myself (and aloud also, at times) that if either of my own boys grow up to be half as wonderful as Josh is, I will consider myself a fortunate and lucky mother. With his drive to achieve academically, his passion for activities, and his commitment to helping others, Josh is truly a young man who is on the path to a bright future. I cannot wait to see what he does next!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joeline M. Hester". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J" and "M".

Joelene M. Hester
Montour School District