



Ligonier Valley Middle School

8/21/19

Dear Admissions Committee,

It is with great pride and without any reservations whatsoever that I write this letter on behalf of Katie Lawson. Having worked with her closely for 3 years in multiple capacities, it's my very qualified opinion that she will greatly enhance any college lucky enough to have her and will be a wonderful ambassador to Ligonier Valley anywhere she goes. She possesses leadership, work ethic, humility, and attention to detail that put her at the "head of the class" to be sure.

I have the pleasure of serving both as Katie's head soccer coach and assistant basketball coach since she came to Ligonier in 10th grade. With both of those sports having active off-seasons, I truly get to work with her 12 months out of the year and have done so for the past 3 years.

The first trait that really stands out in Katie is her leadership. She's a different kind of leader in the sense that she's very quiet and soft spoken. However, she's universally admired by her peers in both sports. These leadership traits have been showing up since 10th grade when I first met her. She's the one that quietly looks after all her teammates. She's the quintessential "team mom". It's not at all uncommon for her to give teammates rides. She's the first to help a teammate who gets injured. Frequently, I've even noticed her giving extra meal/snacks to teammates who weren't able to get them. The best part of this leadership is she seeks ZERO spotlight. It's all done under the radar because it's the right thing to do.

The next traits evident in Katie are work ethic and attention to detail. She's an excellent student, maintains those grades on top of being a 3-sport athlete so she clearly has to work hard for those. I've observed similar things on the soccer field and the basketball court. She was literally brand new to soccer as a 10th grader. However, with all her hard work (and natural athletic ability) she was the MVP of the JV squad during that first year and saw some varsity time. It's amazing to see her soak up every piece of info she's given and being immediately able to use it to help her success. Last year as a junior she battled through multiple injuries all year long but, when healthy, was as strong a scoring threat as I had. In basketball she's asked to play nearly any of the 5 positions on the court and to know what to do for each of our many offensive and defensive sets. You can't do that without being detail oriented. And, she simply works hard enough to get it done no matter how tough the task. She's been, in general, unbelievably unlucky with injuries. Numerous times she's been down with an injury that would have put other girls on the shelf for the season. She simply works so hard in her recovery that she won't let that happen.

The final trait that makes Katie stand out is humility. I've mentioned it before but it's worth reinforcing. This is an incredibly talented young lady both athletically and academically and you'd never know it to watch her interactions with others. In this day and age of "Me, Me, Me" she truly

seeks no spotlight, ever. She always wants to do the right thing and always wants to help but in a quiet and soft spoken manner. She doesn't need the attention, I don't think she wants it. She simply goes about her business- doing so far more successfully than most girls her age.

A perfect anecdote to illustrate several of these traits in Katie occurred just two days ago (Monday 8/19). We were practicing outside for soccer and our athletic director came by to let us know he set the alarm in the building and we shouldn't go back inside for any reason. I announced that to the team. We stopped practice around to all walk to a parent meeting on the other side of our campus. I was towards the front as I was speaking at said meeting, my assistant brought up the rear. About half way into my walk I heard several people say "you've got to tell coach, someone go tell coach" (never words coaches want to hear!). I then immediately heard the alarm going off and knew what had happened. It was a long stressful day for me and I was not happy. Having never had this happen before I called the high school principal to see what I was supposed to do. After talking to him and getting my assistant to help we were going to head up and shut the alarm off and alert the police it was a false alarm. As we started to walk back towards the school, Katie and another girl pulled into the parking lot. All they told me was alarm was off and the police were aware it was a false alarm. Only yesterday (8/20) did I learn that Katie had the wherewithal to immediately call 911 when it happened, and spearheaded taking care of the entire situation so it didn't have to be on my radar and I had to do literally nothing. Of course, she didn't tell me nor would I have known had it not been for overhearing the other girl with her talking about the situation, that Katie took care of everything more efficiently than most adults, stayed out of the spotlight, and did the right thing.

For all these reasons and more Kathryn Lawson gets my absolute highest recommendation. Don't hesitate to contact me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,
Eric R Vogelsang
Ligonier Valley Middle School Teacher
Ligonier Valley Head Varsity Girls Soccer Coach
Ligonier Valley Girls Varsity Basketball Assistant Coach