

RIVERVIEW JUNIOR-HIGH SCHOOL

ERIC HEWITT — PRINCIPAL

NEIL ENGLISH — INSTRUCTIONAL PRINCIPAL

October 29, 2019

To whom it may concern:

I have known Erik Ketterer since he was in junior high, and had him as a student in two advanced placement classes. He is a very fine young man and I strongly encourage you to include him in your freshman class enrolling in the fall of 2020.

Riverview is a very small place so we get to know most of the kids even if we don't have them in class and Erik is no exception. He has been active in a number of things through the years so I have known him for quite a while. He has demonstrated that he is a fine young man and that he is determined to grow and become more than he is today. He has shown that quality as long as I have known him, seeking out teachers for help or to explore an idea he is curious about, pushing himself to take classes that are outside of his comfort zone, and even just to engage with activities that are outside his normal daily routine. Erik wants to be more and works at becoming more.

In class my first experience with him was in 10th grade when he took the AP Psychology course. It is the first AP course we make available to students and the only one in 10th grade and it is always interesting to see how the kids step up to the level of work that AP requires, particularly in a class populated by upper classmen rather than kids in the same grade. Erik established early on that he was going to be a top student, from his engagement with the classroom to his attention to the reading away from class, and even his fairly regular visits at the beginning or end of the day to ask questions or unpack something from class that was giving him pause. Erik was constantly in my room talking with me about how he could improve in the course and what the practicality of some concept might be. His grade has a hundred students in it, our largest in some time, and I can count on the fingers of one hand how many kids regularly stopped to improve their learning, Erik is one of those kids.

The next year Erik signed up for AP United States History and I saw someone who had grown a great deal from the past year but still had all of the work ethic and curiosity that made him such a great student. What I learned to value in Erik last year was the way that he was willing to take risks and think out loud about historical questions, a trait that students often don't have because they are afraid of getting the answer wrong. Erik hates being wrong too but he recognizes that sometimes you have to wonder and even speculate if you are going to begin to answer a question and he has learned to do that in a reasonable and effective way.

Beyond that, I am sure that you have reviewed Erik's transcript and see that his grades are very strong and that he is very involved in activities at school. I want to be sure to tell you that Erik actually does all of those things. As I mentioned earlier Riverview is a small place and we need our kids to be involved in many different things or we cannot field a sport or club. Erik has embraced that role. I have spent many an hour talking with him about track and cross country, his role on the team, and his hopes for both the team and himself. He has a passion for success and achieving the goals that have been set,

however, at the same time he has an essential decency. For Erik, winning is important but it is more important to win in the right way and to have everyone share in the experience. As a member of the faculty council for National Honor Society I have had a unique vantage point from which to observe Erik and to hear the assessments of my colleagues and I can report that he has earned the respect of the teachers in this building for his scholarship and humanity.

I think that Erik is a great kid. He plans to major in Psychology and eventually to pursue being a Psychiatrist and I really believe that not only will he accomplish that but he will be a really good doctor; well-versed in the science but very caring about the people given into his care. It would be my strongest encouragement to you to include him in your freshman class this coming fall. I am absolutely certain that you will be glad of that decision in the end! If I can do anything more to help in that decision please contact me, my email and personal cell phone number are below. I would be happy to assist you in making a positive decision for Erik.

Sincerely,

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