



DEPARTMENT
OF
MATHEMATICS

Gabriel teNyenhuis

Honors Math 3
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AVID Elective
Math Academy



Clavis East High School

January 28, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

“One of the top few of my career” is the highest rating offered on many of the teacher recommendation forms that I have filled in over the years, and I don’t take the rating lightly. Ethan McFadden justifiably deserves that ranking. After teaching him in Honors Math 3, AP Calculus AB, and currently in AP Calculus BC I can honestly say that, in my 32 years of teaching, I have had only a handful of students with his ability, intellect, and disposition. Ethan is amazingly intelligent, incredibly creative, comprehensive in his written work, accurate in his oral communication, and exceptionally polite.

My relationship with Ethan began during his sophomore year. He was a quirky kid with bad handwriting who could solve a Rubik’s Cube...really fast. His talent with that cube, and related puzzles, was captivating. I knew the brain power and commitment that was required to perform at such a high level and we had many conversations about his techniques. The depth of knowledge was astounding. His prowess, however, is not limited to handheld puzzles. He is fascinated by difficult math and enjoys the struggle and camaraderie of solving problems with others. There were many times where he and I, and a few others, would take turns at a white board trying different methods to arrive at a solution. Ethan was never phased if we couldn’t reach a conclusion, and would simply try again at later time.

During his junior, year he competed in the Fresno State Integration Bee and was one of the last high school students to remain in the contest. At the time, he hadn’t yet been exposed to some formulas and methods that were necessary, so he researched and learned them on his own while preparing in his spare time by finding sample integrals on the internet from other colleges such as MIT. He continues to prepare for this year’s competition by conducting further research and working through additional formidable math. He does not accept mediocrity and will do what it takes when situations fall below his lofty personal standards.

He always outperformed his peers but would never turn down an opportunity to assist them. He patiently helped classmates, individually and in small groups, to understand concepts, complete assignments, and prepare for assessments. Whether through a text group on his phone or a weekend meeting at Starbucks, he finds time to provide guidance. He’s even created calculus review videos and posted them on his YouTube channel as a support for others.

It is not surprising that Ethan has selected a Computer Science field as a career choice. He has the individual and collaborative skills to make a difference. I see him taking advantage of resources and innovations to further his proficiency, networking for the purposeful exchange of ideas, and treating others with fairness and empathy while maintaining high standards and accountability.

I enthusiastically provide this recommendation on his behalf.

Sincerely,