

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Andy Taing, a student I have had the privilege of knowing for the past two years during his time at Alhambra High School. I first encountered Andy when he was a sophomore in my Accelerated Math 2 class. He was not the strongest in the subject, but he was the top excelling student among the two sections of Accelerated Math 2 classes that I taught during the 2021-2022 academic year. He achieved this by frequently asking questions and attending tutoring, demonstrating a thirst for knowledge, and striving for success. Shockingly, as a sophomore just returning from online distance learning, he worked very well with others, improved his communication and discussion skills, and demonstrated amazing academic and interpersonal qualities. Andy's outstanding qualities make him an exceptional candidate for any academic or professional pursuit.

One of Andy's most prominent traits is his respectfulness. In the classroom, he consistently demonstrates a deep respect for his peers' opinions and values. Fostering an inclusive environment where everyone feels heard and valued. Andy's respectfulness was contagious, and it greatly impacted my classroom environment and critically helped me improve my classroom management. For instance, during group discussions and critiquing of math procedures, he actively listens to his classmates, encouraging diverse viewpoints and strategies, and creating a respectful atmosphere for intellectual exchange. It has been said by numerous students in my class that Andy makes it so that other students are not afraid to share their opinions or answer questions because Andy helped the classroom foster a community of trust and learning.

Furthermore, Andy is exceptionally empathetic. He shows a genuine understanding of his classmates' challenges and actively supports them. Growing up, Andy had a speech impediment that would make it challenging for him to say certain words with specific sounds and required tremendous perseverance to overcome. This experience, marked by the struggle to communicate effectively, provided him with unique insights into the power of empathy. Understanding the frustration of struggling to express oneself, Andy developed a profound empathy for others facing challenges or struggles. I have observed him assisting struggling students during group projects, patiently explaining concepts until everyone comprehends. His empathy extends beyond academics; he has volunteered at our school's counseling center, demonstrating his commitment to the well-being of his fellow students. Lastly, he consistently demonstrates a deep concern for my well-being as his teacher; frequently checking in on my mental health and asking about my day. His genuine interest in his classmates and my welfare creates a nurturing and supportive classroom environment, reminding everyone of the power of empathy in fostering meaningful connections.

Andy's helpful nature is evident in his involvement within our school community. As a member of the MESA club, he took the initiative to organize STEM activities for over 200 members. His approach ensured the smooth execution of these activities, fostering a sense of enthusiasm for learning among his peers. In the classroom, he frequently volunteers to help set up experiments and assist others with challenging concepts, embodying the spirit of cooperation. In my three years of being a club advisor for MESA, Andy stands out as one of the best in the vice president and secretary roles.

In addition to these qualities, Andy is proactive, always taking the initiative to contribute positively to our academic and school community. For instance, in his role as Vice President of the Key Club, he spearheaded multiple volunteer proposals, organizing events that positively impacted both our schools and the wider community. He now has taken on the bigger role of President and has increased club spirit and member involvement. His proactive mindset is an asset to any team or organization he is a part of it.

In conclusion, Andy Taing is an exceptional student who possesses the qualities of respectfulness, empathy, helpfulness, and proactivity. His positive impact on our school community has been significant, and I am confident he will continue to excel in his future endeavors. I wholeheartedly recommend Andy without reservation. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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*Andrew Ly*