

Recommendation Letter for Nathaniel-Zachary McDaniel
December 10, 2025

I am pleased to recommend Nathaniel-Zachary McDaniel, whom I have worked with this school year as his high school counselor at Las Lomas High School. His academic growth is particularly notable given his educational journey. He attended online public school from freshman through junior year and successfully reintegrated into a comprehensive, in-person high school environment during his senior year. This transition required adaptability, self-discipline, and maturity - qualities he demonstrated consistently. Academically, he has shown strong initiative and intellectual curiosity, especially in technology-focused subjects. He earned multiple entry-level Certiport certifications in Python, Cybersecurity, and Digital Literacy, validating both his technical skill set and his commitment to independent learning. These accomplishments reflect a student who takes ownership of his education, seeks out opportunities to expand his knowledge, and is unafraid to challenge himself in new academic settings.

His areas of impact are equally impressive, most notably through his founding of the Las Lomas Robotics Club. Identifying a need and opportunity within the school community, he independently researched how to establish a student-led robotics program, drafted a comprehensive plan, and brought the vision to life. With the ambitious goal of competing in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) without any cost to participants, he spearheaded outreach and grant efforts to secure the \$6,300 registration fee - an extraordinary achievement for a high school student. Through this work, he has not only created access to STEM opportunities for his peers but also fostered a collaborative environment that brings together bright, motivated students. His leadership is forward-thinking and community-centered; he speaks not only about building a club, but about creating a lasting legacy at Las Lomas that will benefit students for years to come.

On a personal level, Nathaniel-Zachary is kind, humble, hardworking, and genuinely driven by a desire to make a positive difference. He is polite, understanding, and approachable, qualities that naturally draw others to him and make him an effective leader. His decision to found a robotics club and return to an in-person school setting for his senior year reflects both courage and confidence. He approaches challenges with optimism and resourcefulness, always willing to step into unfamiliar territory if it means growth or impact. Overall, he is an outgoing, principled young man with a strong moral compass, a collaborative spirit, and a sincere commitment to improving the world around him. I am confident he will continue to lead with integrity and purpose in college and beyond.

Sincerely,

Kara Bloodgood
Counselor
Las Lomas High School