



Cedarcrest High School

29000 NE 150th Street Duvall, WA 98019
425-844-4800

June 1, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

It was with great enthusiasm that I recommended Richard Steen for scholarship consideration. I had the pleasure of teaching Richard in AP Physics 1 at Cedarcrest High School, where he distinguished himself through his academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, leadership, and unwavering commitment to learning.

From the very beginning of the course, Richard stood out as a student with a natural aptitude for physics and a deep appreciation for how the subject connected to the real world. He earned a top score of 5 on the AP Physics 1 exam, a reflection of both his mastery of the material and his dedication to understanding underlying principles. Richard approached physics not as a collection of formulas to memorize, but as a framework for interpreting the world around him. His thoughtful questions consistently elevated classroom discussions, and his ability to draw meaningful connections between concepts demonstrated maturity beyond his years.

Richard's passion for engineering was equally impressive. As a key member of the Cedarcrest Robotics team, he served as the lead of the CAD (Computer-Aided Design) team and co-lead of hardware. His leadership and technical skills were instrumental to the team's success, and his commitment was extraordinary—often dedicating upwards of 50 hours per week to meetings, competitions, and independent design work. Notably, his team competed at the Robotics World Championship, an accomplishment that reflected not only the team's excellence but also Richard's significant contributions as a leader and innovator.

Beyond the classroom and robotics lab, Richard pursued real-world experience by working at 2333 Designs & Manufacturing, a local circuit board company, where he further developed his engineering skills in a professional setting. His initiative in seeking out authentic learning opportunities spoke volumes about his drive, maturity, and long-term vision. He also remained an active member of the school community through band and marching band, contributing energy and spirit to school events and fostering a strong sense of community.

What set Richard apart was not only his technical ability, but also his character. He was thoughtful, dependable, and deeply motivated by a desire to contribute meaningfully to society. His interest in nuclear and mechanical engineering was rooted in a genuine belief that these fields could help address critical global challenges, particularly in sustainable energy. Richard demonstrated both the ability and the purpose necessary to make a meaningful impact in his field.

I gave Richard my highest recommendation for scholarship consideration. He exemplified the qualities of intellectual curiosity, perseverance, leadership, and integrity that scholarship programs seek to support. I was confident that he would use such an opportunity not only to further his own education, but also to contribute positively to the broader community.

Sincerely,

Justin Guyer
AP Physics & Chemistry Instructor
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🌸 National Blue Ribbon Award Winner 🌸