



*An International Baccalaureate School*

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16 March 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Ayvah Steveson. Ayvah has been a valuable student in my IB History of Americas class for the past two academic years. I also had an opportunity to travel with Ayvah on a school trip to Europe between her junior and senior years. In that time, I had the opportunity to observe Ayvah's class participation, her work ethic, her relationships with others, and her individual and group work products. Having reflected upon those things, I can enthusiastically, and without reservation recommend Ayvah for any scholarships for which she may qualify.

Ayvah is, and has been, a valued member of my class. She demonstrates a willingness to engage our topics and to extend their learning opportunities beyond the base requirements. In class discussion, Ayvah demonstrates not only command of the subject matter of our course, but also the abilities to extrapolate connections from the material and to analyze and offer commentary upon factual material. Moreover, her writing demonstrates that she is able to approach complex content in a logical, well-supported manner while effectively implementing precise jargon that proves difficult to others. Ayvah's success is a product of her hard work and dedication, both of which are sincere and consistent. In short, Ayvah is a driving force in class who raises questions and assists others in their understanding.

With the International Baccalaureate Program alone, Ayvah has faced the most rigorous course load available to build a well-rounded, international-minded educational experience for herself. With that level of coursework, many students feel overwhelmed, but Ayvah is eager and engaging when it comes to challenges. She regularly contributes highly insightful, well-developed questions, pertaining to both class material and wider political and historical issues. Often these questions are not designed to help Ayvah with the basics of our class. Instead, they demonstrate a desire to truly engage class material and to develop a comprehensive understanding of our subject. This is not an experience that is unique to me. Through the IB diploma at Franklin High School, Ayvah has been challenged with rigor in a wide range of course offerings, even taking IB classes beyond what is necessary for her to qualify for the IB Diploma. She has accepted each of those challenges with enthusiasm, and their teachers regard her very highly.

While Ayvah's academic hard work is extremely impressive in itself, she also extends herself to being balanced with other significant activities. As I'm sure her resume will reflect, Ayvah is a member of several honor societies and extra-curricular clubs. Her primary activity is participation in

the school's marching band, for which she serves as a vital senior leader. Just last year, the marching band transitioned to the leadership of a new band director, and that transition would not have been conducted nearly as smoothly without Ayvah's mature student leadership which helped to maintain a calm and engaged mentality for our band students. More importantly, Ayvah consistently exhibits empathy towards others. She is quick to participate in service opportunities, she is incredibly loyal to her friends, and she is always ready to extend help or friendship to those she meets.

Unfortunately, during our school's summer European trip, Ayvah fainted, and I had to accompany her to an Italian emergency room. Luckily, Ayvah's health was okay. The experience also provided me an opportunity to maintain admiral calm and composure during a frightening situation. The maturity she exhibited as we repeatedly attempted to explain ourselves to doctors and ultimately made our way back to our tour group showed me that she will be able to navigate the independence that university will offer by keeping a cool head and sense of humor about her, even in challenging times.

In short, I believe that Ayvah possesses the character and intellectual elements that will allow her to become a great citizen and leader. She has demonstrated such time and time again while establishing herself both as one of our school's most promising and thoughtful academic students and as one of our best citizens. She is one of the most thoughtful and empathetic students that I have had the pleasure to teach. Therefore, I am able to provide Ayvah with my highest recommendation to you without any reservation.

Sincerely,

Raymond W. Scheetz, Jr.  
Teacher  
Franklin High School