



OAKLAND
CHARTER
HIGH SCHOOL

Saeed Salem
Oakland Charter High School
ssalem@amethodschools.org
510-289-6769

January 29, 2026

To Admission Officers,

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Victor Zheng, a remarkable student I have had the privilege of teaching in Honors Biology (10th grade). Over the course of the school year, Victor has shown to be a highly academically driven student, as well as an individual who is compassionate, outgoing, and determined.

Victor is the type of student who shows determination and grit regardless of the tasks placed in front of him. When many other students may feel overwhelmed with the amount of work they're assigned, Victor takes a different approach and sees it as an opportunity to grow and showcase what he's capable of.

One moment that stood out to me about Victor was during a summative project. The project consisted of a large portion of their grade and students were set to work in groups of three. Unfortunately, both of Victor's partners were often absent and weren't able to contribute much to the project. I offered Victor the opportunity to join another group, to my surprise, he declined and was determined to complete the project regardless of the circumstances. He was able to keep on pace with other groups in terms of progress, and surpassed many in terms of quality of work. Not once did he complain about his circumstances or ask for leniency due to not having his group partners being able to contribute much. When it came to presentations, once again his group members were not present. I offered him the chance to postpone his presentation until the following day, but once again he declined. He went through the entire presentation on his own, and was able to cover the material without hesitation. This truly showcased Victor's determination and willingness to work through any obstacle, a valuable asset in any line of work, especially as he aspires to become a physician.

Victor also showed great interest in Biology. He'd often come by after school and attend office hours. We would spend time covering the material at hand as well as going into more depth, as he'd often enjoy learning about how certain reactions affect the body and also play into the function of organ systems.

Overall, Victor's goal of becoming a physician speaks volumes about his self-determination and willingness to succeed regardless of the circumstances. It will connect really well in the health care field where oftentimes health care providers are left in situations that are less than ideal, yet still need to find solutions to help patients. I have no doubt in my mind that Victor will make a

meaningful contribution to any college or university that he attends. I give him my fullest recommendation without reservation.

Please feel free to contact me if any more information is needed.

Best,
Saeed Salem
Biology Teacher, Oakland Charter High School

Amethod Public Schools

2365 Coolidge Ave, Oakland CA 94601 • ssalem@amethodschools.org