



Buchanan High School

Kendia Herrington
Chemistry & CTE Chemistry
AP Computer Science Principles

1560 N Minnewawa
Clovis, Ca 93619
(559) 327 – 3000



To whom it concerns;

I have gotten to know Brandon Xiong over this year in Computer Science Principles. Brandon was eager since the first day to get into the computer science field and to learn more. Within the classroom setting, Brandon collaborates in every group and is a productive member. Brandon was surprised when I handed him a box of toys and asked him to choose a set. He reluctantly grabbed a set of hand clappers, but I could tell he wanted to get straight into programming. After having some silly moments outside with binary questions, Brandon came back in and reflected in his journal. After a few weeks, Brandon took his first test. Some of the vocab was new for him but when he looked back at the activity, he had the idea down. The little details from the activities are Brandon's moments. He gets the ideas, he can program them, and is learning to bring himself into the work.

On the first project, Brandon turned in a nice blue set of slides with every required detail. The project was missing him. He talked about digitized work, but besides the music of his choose there was no Brandon reflection within his project. On his second project some of his ideas and reflections was included in the grade. He made a nice set of slides for a presentation on net neutrality but Brandon was not within these slides again. His video covered the main points but there was a disconnect from the material to how he felt. This was a turning point for Brandon. After talking with Brandon, a realization was made that this is a subject where you have to put yourself and your ideas within your work. This cultural shift has made Brandon's work so engaging and shows everyone who Brandon is as an artist within computer science.

Brandon's confidence has continued to grow all year. The app project that includes numbers and strings, I could see Brandon's love of gaming within this project. Every class member could see Brandon in the work. From color choice, placement of values, and the actual topic chosen, it showed off Brandon's work. Brandon earned 100% from his classmate reviews and on the project. Brandon continues to push himself by learning new techniques to simplify his code and to expand the programming that he can do. A nice bonus that I have been able to witness second semester is how Brandon reflects more on when he is unsure. He collaborates within his group, tries different code, and when he is still unsure, he comes and asks questions. Brandon is coming out of his quiet mode and speaking up for himself.

Brandon knows how to work with his peers beyond just collaborating. He gains their trust, collaborates, and supports his classmates. I cannot wait to see how Brandon uses his passion, collaboration, and leadership skills in college and beyond. Brandon faces every challenge face on and finds a way that works. He rises to every challenge and always moves forward. I look forward to seeing what Brandon decides to put his passion towards. Any field will be lucky to gain this bright young man's attention. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Ms. Kendia Herrington
kendiaherrington@cusd.com