

### Letters of Recommendation

To whom it may concern,

My name is Michael Himes. I taught Video Production and Technology at Mount Carmel High School for over a decade. I currently serve as President of HiRez Productions, a media production company in Chicago, Illinois. I have known Luke Hayes for the past four years and I can say without hesitation that I have seen him grow and mature into one of the most highly skilled and productive students I have ever witnessed in my involvement with Mount Carmel High School. Luke has always been a smart and motivated student, but his grades may not reflect this or tell the entire story. Early on in high school, not having a direction or career path you would like to pursue can cause a students' grades to not be a good representation of their true capabilities. This was the case with Luke. Upon discovering his true passion in computer science, video, and technology he learned his best path was through school and all of the opportunities it presents. Over the past year Luke's achievements and accomplishments are greater than any former student that I have encountered, so much so that I have taken him on as an intern for my company. His work has been used to secure and showcase final presentations for some of the top businesses in the city. The life lessons, experiences, and education Luke has learned during his four year high school journey have placed him well in front of his fellow students in terms of college readiness. In a recent conversation with Luke, he expressed his determination to excel in this field and make positive contributions to society with his work. It is with confidence and enthusiasm that I recommend Luke for an opportunity at your school. He will be a significant asset, one you will be proud of and one that your community will be better for accepting.

Sincerely,

Michael Himes

President - HiRez Productions

312.735.0768

To whom it may concern,

My name is Tom Scanlan. I am a computer arts and science teacher at Mount Carmel High School and I am also the Caravan Broadcast Network administrator. If there was ever a student to convince mainstream education to abandon standard tools of assessment in favor of informative portfolios, Luke Hayes would be that student. I've had Luke as a student for my VFX Comp, Digital Media Arts, and Computer Programming classes. He has shown initiative in going above and beyond class requirements by inventing his own homework and projects. His intrinsic motivation has blown away any external motivator in my classes and begs the question how much more can he learn before he is done with his senior year. Many students, especially seniors, finish only what they need to in order to be done with the task at hand. There is no lazy muscle in Luke's body as his desire for curiosity and discovery trump any rigorous problem. To him, computer arts and sciences are not simply an obstacle waiting to be beaten, but a field truly deserving of his time and efforts. If every learner were as knowledgeable about how to truly be a scholar and jump at opportunities as Luke is, there would be no crisis in our schools. I recommend Luke for whatever his next endeavor may be, because every institution should have a student with an appetite for wonder like him.

Sincerely,

Tom Scanlan

Mount Carmel High School

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Tony Smith, a game play software engineer at Netherrealm Studios in Chicago (Creators of Mortal Kombat). Recently I met Luke when he came for a tour of our facilities as he was interested in learning about being a video game programmer. Luke was very enthusiastic about programming and showed me a portfolio of his work from the past several months. I was impressed to say the least with the variety and complexity of the projects he completed, especially for someone who has only been programming for several months. Only being a senior in high school, Luke is very far ahead and I am intrigued to see what he will accomplish as he furthers his ability as a software developer.

Sincerely,

Tony Smith

asmith@netherrealm.com