



CLOVIS NORTH EDUCATIONAL CENTER GRANITE RIDGE
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ♦ CLOVIS NORTH HIGH SCHOOL
“Home of the Broncos”

September 13, 2021

Dear Sirs.

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Nathan Maldonado as he applies for admission into college. I have had the pleasure of knowing Nathan for the last four years as his computer Science teacher, his advisory for robotics and his supervisor for internships. He came to me with a wealth of knowledge in the Computer Science world and strives to learn even more each day, demonstrating a keen ability to take his knowledge of computer science and apply it to data science and cognitive science applications.

Nathan is a quiet and respectful young man with a passion for learning, but don't let his demeanor sway you that he anything less than brilliant. His academic resume would make any parent proud with a 4.61 GPA loaded with “A”s in AP and honors courses on his transcript. What is absent from his transcript is what an amazing young man he is. Nathan is a kind soul who is wicked smart. He has the propensity for learning concepts well beyond his peers but doesn't make them feel that way. He works well alone and in groups, he is an amazing listener and when he chimes in with opinions, it's usually a conversation stopper because what he shares surpasses what his peers have thought of. He is kind, caring and doesn't mind helping out his seatmates when they get stuck. His passion for doing his best is evident in everything he does. I have watched as he takes classroom concepts to a new level and applies them to real-world settings, just for fun. As an educator, I can't wait to see what he will accomplish in his college career. As a human, I can't wait to see how he is going to change the world.

When Nathan isn't delving into his studies, he is busy making positive impacts in his community. He is actively involved in the Red Cross in multiple capacities. He has served as a volunteer, helping match fire victims to available service; a collector of emergency necessities for wildfire victims; and as an ambassador for the Red Cross' International Humanitarian Law campaign, informing students across our district how the edict of war relates to the contemporary world. He is also a founding member of Leap XR, an educational company started by Clovis North students that programs virtual reality environments to help educate our special needs students in needed life skills. Nathan also holds a leadership positions in the Coding club and the school's *FIRST* Robotics Competition team, Stable Circuits. Well-rounded is an understatement when describing Nathan.

I have no doubt that Nathan has much to bring to any college campus and yet can learn so much from others as well. He is an outstanding choice and I ask you to strongly consider inviting him into your fold. Please contact me if you desire any further information about this amazing young man.

Kind Regards,

Mary Allen
Instructor- AP Computer Science
maryallen@cusd.com



CLOVIS NORTH EDUCATIONAL CENTER
GRANITE RIDGE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ♦ CLOVIS NORTH HIGH SCHOOL
"Home of the Broncos"

To Whom It May Concern:

I offer my highest recommendation for Mr. Nathan Maldonado. I had the pleasure of serving as Nathan's AP Psychology teacher last year, and among the 180 students I taught, Nathan was a stand-out individual from the start. Nathan is beyond outstanding as both a student and a person. He is by far one of the brightest and most intellectual students I have taught. Nathan's unique ability to contextualize the content we learned in a large-scale approach often left me awestruck. In addition to his academic excellence, Nathan is extremely witty and funny. Nathan would often email me jokes and memes with psychology related content, or funny retorts to classroom conversations that demonstrated his deep understanding of the topic. Nathan has continued to make his mark on this campus by being an exemplary student and kind person to those around him, even during a time when face-to-face contact was not an option. However, what truly sets Nathan apart from the rest is his natural inclination to think widely, ask piercing questions, and perpetually emote kindness and generosity.

In the academic setting, Nathan excels. Out of 618 students in his senior class, Nathan is ranked as #27, which should come as no surprise to those who are privileged enough to know him. Nathan is not only naturally gifted; he puts in hard work in order to succeed at the levels in which he is performing. During his four years here at Clovis North, Nathan has taken 10 AP courses, and 5 honors courses, a heavy course load for any student. Moreover, in order to maximize cost and time efficiency during college, Nathan has also taken 8 courses at the community college. Though this may seem excessive to some, Nathan's natural capabilities and drive have kept him successful amid the extensive demands of a heavy course load. During his time at university, I am certain he will thrive within every environment he finds himself.

Though Nathan is extremely academically successful, he has not had everything come easy to him. While most students at Clovis North are white, with medium to high income families, Nathan comes from a low-income Latino family and two immigrant parents. As the first-born son in a family with no college graduates, Nathan has had to pave his own way towards academic success, navigating between Mexican and American cultural norms, AP courses and Honors classes, and college admissions all on his own. In my opinion, Nathan has been able to achieve this by making connections with his peers, and more importantly, his teachers. Moreover, Nathan has immersed himself in various extra-curriculars, such as the Coding Club, the Red Cross, the International Humanitarian Law, Robotics, and LEAP, an LLC which helps students with special needs by editing their curriculum. Though Nathan's life has not been without adversity, he has always worked to put more into the world than what he takes. I am certain he will continue to contribute to his communities throughout the rest of his college career and his entire life.

In sum, Nathan was truly a joy to have as my student. For anyone lucky enough to meet him, I am confident they will come to the same conclusion. He is without question, an asset to have in any community. For these reasons, I offer my full support for Nathan Maldonado.

Sincerely,

Anna Crossman

AP Psychology

2770 E. INTERNATIONAL AVE. • FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93730 • 559-327-5000

Joshua Shapiro, Ed.D., *Principal*
Tami Graham, Laurel Graves, *Deputy Principals*
Yvette Adams, Jonathan Bowns, Alicynne Chaney, Anthony Follis,
Coby Lindsey, Kaitlyn Vargas, Tom Wright, *Learning Directors*



CLOVIS NORTH EDUCATIONAL CENTER GRANITE
RIDGE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ♦ **CLOVIS NORTH HIGH SCHOOL**
"Home of the Broncos"

Re: Nathan Maldonado

March 15, 2022

Dear Scholarship Selection Committee:

It is my distinct pleasure to write this letter of recommendation in support of Mr. Nathan Maldonado for your most generous scholarship. As a teacher of college preparation courses for the past twenty-five years, I have had the true honor of teaching many of our brightest students, and I can say without hesitation that Nathan is one of the most exceptional students that I have ever had the pleasure of teaching. He is an extremely reliable and responsible young man who always brings to class an inquisitive mind and an enthusiasm for learning. I am confident that Nathan will represent your organization with grace and honor.

Academically, Nathan's outstanding performance speaks for itself. His transcript is most impressive, and he has maintained this high level of academic achievement while taking a full load of difficult courses. Through diligence and hard work, Nathan has been one of the top students in my very competitive French III and AP French Language and Culture courses over the past two years. Nathan is genuinely curious about how the language works and often stays after class to discuss the nuances of the language and sends me questions when he encounters a real-life French application outside of the school setting that he wants to know more about. It is a joy for a teacher to see a student internalizing and applying their subject matter! Nathan's intrinsic interest in French not only makes him a better student, it inspires me to be a better teacher.

Further, Nathan is truly a joyful, thoughtful, and humble young man who is a classroom leader every day. He is an invaluable member of our class, and never hesitates to help others. He expertly guides and encourages his classmates to success with his patience and true understanding of the concepts taught in class. Nathan's kind and collaborative nature make him very easy to work with and students seek him out for help when they are struggling with difficult material. Nathan gives freely of his time and knowledge and he is always positive and supportive, never condescending. Through his obvious love of learning and by being a stellar human being, Nathan leads by example, the most powerful of all leadership styles.

Another of Nathan's outstanding qualities is that he is an out-of-the box thinker. This year, because it was in direct conflict with my AP French Language course in which he was enrolled, Nathan was not able to enroll in our AP Spanish Language course as he had hoped. At that point, having already exceeded the minimum foreign language requirement for college admission, he could have taken the easy road and opted out of one (or both!) of the languages - Nevermind that he was not required to take an extra class, much less two, due to his commitments in our CART Program! - Instead, Nathan proposed enrolling in AP French and AP Spanish at the same time, splitting his time between the courses. Normally I would have said no to this request, as part-time world language courses are rarely successful. However, due to Nathan's interest in languages, his impeccable organizational skills, and his dedication to academic success, I was confident that he would follow through and complete both courses with great results. After having him in class last year, I knew that I could count on Nathan to pace himself appropriately and to complete all of the tasks and assessments that I was assigning to the rest of the class without any external pressure and with very little input or guidance from me. For the record, he is earning an A in both courses! Nathan is the kind of student who makes a teacher's job simple, raising the bar for everyone whether he is, or is not, physically in the room.

It is with the utmost pride and without hesitation that I recommend Mr. Nathan Maldonado. I am confident that he will manage the rigor, pace, and opportunities of university life as he does everything - with passion, diligence, and kindness. You will be proud, should Nathan be chosen for your gift of scholarship; you will be making a significant, positive impact in his life, and he will truly value and appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Julie Havens, Lead French Teacher

2770 E. INTERNATIONAL AVE. • FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93730 • 559-327-5000

Joshua Shapiro, Ed.D., *Principal*
Jonathan Bowns, Alicynne Chaney, *Deputy Principals*
Yvette Adams, Coby Lindsey, Katie Scalzo,
Whitney Swillis, Kaitlyn Vargas, Tom Wright, *Learning Directors*