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Ray Pappalardi  
Director of Physical Education, Health, & Athletics

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Ken Bonamo, Principal, Scarsdale High School  
  
Maureen Ellison-Connolly, Department Chair, Mathematics  
  
Drew Patrick, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and  
Leadership Development

FROM: Ray Pappalardi, Director of Physical Education, Health & Athletics

DATE: March 17, 2021

SUBJECT: Michael Kumaresan - Letter of Reference

In the short time that Dr. Michael Kumaresan has been at Scarsdale High School, I have had the opportunity to supervise him coach girls in the sport of soccer, collaborate with him in the creation of a spreadsheet to support the operations of our athletic department, and guest teach in one of his STEAM classes. Based upon my observations and experiences with Mike, I feel that Scarsdale High School is very fortunate; he is an extremely intelligent, student-centered, team-oriented colleague who is willing to assist in any way that he is able.

During the 2019 and 2020 seasons, Mike served as a soccer coach in the Athletic Department. During his coaching, I have observed Mike demonstrate advanced knowledge of soccer tactics and application of skills in relevant contexts. He has a unique ability to convey tactically relevant skills to girls at both the JV and Varsity levels of play. Mike is able to reach players at all levels of skill and knowledge as they hang on his every word and interact with him. They practice, ask contextual questions, and seek clarity while practicing. For me, it has been evident that his approach to athletics is an educational one and that his purpose is consistent with that of our athletic program.

Over the past two years, Mike has worked with the staff in the Athletic Office to produce a spreadsheet which integrated and automated the scheduling of

interscholastic athletics contests. Specifically, Mike enabled us to enter contest information in a spreadsheet and have that information manifest itself on a team-specific Google Calendar. Throughout the development process, Mike listened to our needs, wrote and re-wrote scripts, spent time troubleshooting issues, and recruited colleagues to solve problems. His persistence and focus helped us immensely. Now, we have a scheduling solution that utilizes our time more efficiently and communicates our schedule to the community in real-time.

Earlier this year, Mike asked me if I would have interest in speaking with one of his STEAM classes about ways to use Excel during a ZOOM session. The class had just finished building mouse-trap cars and was reflecting upon different design choices. So, I prepared a sheet that allowed the students to change variables and compare outcomes. Based upon the formulas, they could examine the effect each variable had on speed and how changes to the design affected performance, assuming all other variables remained consistent. The discussion was rich and the class was prepared, inquisitive, and engaged. It was clear that the class culture had been established and that the students had taken ownership of their own learning.

Dr. Michael Kumaresan is an asset to the Scarsdale Public Schools. I am hopeful that he will choose to continue his career here. Students and colleagues will benefit from his expertise and interdisciplinary, co-curricular, and extra-curricular contributions.