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To Whom it May Concern:

As a teacher at Sultan High School, I would like to recommend Hayden Murphy for the Local Scholarships. I have had the joy of teaching Hayden twice in his high school career, once as a junior in Algebra II and again his senior year in Statistics. In this time, I have had the privilege of getting to know Hayden's character and seeing how his unique engagement has a positive effect on my classroom.

It is no secret to me that math is not Hayden's favorite subject; that said, the way he engages in class discussions benefits my classroom and students. In situations when other students are afraid to be wrong, Hayden is willing to offer ideas or ask questions, which routinely results in a deeper learning opportunity for the class. Additionally, Hayden is not afraid to push back when something is confusing. Most students relent after they ask for help and the explanation still doesn't make sense, but Hayden is honest and continues to question in order to understand. Regardless of his intrinsic passion for a topic, Hayden is an engaged and fearless learner who has a positive impact on those around him.

The quality that truly makes Hayden stand out from his peers is his high level of integrity. Hayden takes responsibility for his actions and doesn't make excuses or try to convince me, the teacher, to work harder to rectify any poor academic choices. This alone is rare for a high school student, but Hayden takes it to the next level by being honest, even if it means he is docked points, and accepting a situation and moving forward with the best intentions to advance his learning. It is impressive that Hayden has developed these real-world tools so young, and I know they will continue to benefit him in his future endeavors.

Overall, Hayden is an enjoyable young man to teach. His integrity and enthusiasm have made him well respected by his peers and teachers alike. Please consider my recommendation of Hayden Murphy for the Local Scholarships.

Sincerely,

Maurissa Lynch  
SHS Mathematics and AVID teacher