

To Whom it May Concern,

I have had the great pleasure of working with Philip Lague for the past two years in Algebra 2 and Precalculus. In the time that I have known Philip, he has exhibited an intuitive sense of pattern recognition, a strong understanding of self, and a genuine sense of humor. All of these attributes make Philip a great addition to the math classroom - he is open to making mistakes with good humor along the way to discovering true math generalizations.

I first met Philip last year in Algebra 2. He presented as a student with a relatively traditional background in math - aware of his grades and looking for a formula to use. He expressed having some bad experiences in math classes prior and demonstrated a fixed mindset of his abilities. In Algebra 2, our focus was on developing an understanding of math concepts through the connection of physical and algebraic models of real-life situations. While this approach was initially confusing, Philip showed a strong aptitude for developing sense and purpose in the equations and other generalizations we came to after exploring a large problem. The confusion now comes from more complex situations in Precalculus, but I can count on Philip seeing the patterns emerge over time.

In the math classroom, Philip is genuine in his understanding of himself. He is friendly and open to others in an introverted and accepting way. His humor helps build bridges; shows others it is ok to make light of what could otherwise be a frustrating situation; and provides a shared connection to the overall experience of a useful, supportive, and fun math class. He is honest with himself and others. He puts others at ease and makes learning enjoyable. Because of this, I highly recommend Philip as an ideal candidate for your higher education community.

Thomas Payeur
Mathematics Educator
2019 Vermont State Teacher of the Year
978-866-9382
tpayeur@ewsd.org