



SILVER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

3434 SILVER CREEK ROAD, SAN JOSE, CA 95121

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KELLY DAUGHERTY, PRINCIPAL

November 25, 2020

Dear Institute of Higher Learning,

In the two years and three months that I have known Phu Dang, he has proven to be articulate, inquisitive, and persevering. He was a junior in my *AP Statistics* course and also a sophomore in my *Integrated Math 3* class. Assertively he has taken *seven AP* courses here at Silver Creek. He is an independently strong student who also works very well collaboratively with his classmates. He exemplifies great student behavior, he verbalizes his understanding often, and he stays highly knowledgeable in the content performing in the top 5% of the class in all tests, quizzes, & projects. I have witnessed him help others with AP Stats & Math 3 concepts, by explaining and demonstrating with proper vocabulary until his peer got the correct understanding. Additionally, I have seen him stand up firmly for his conclusions when answers were debated, always using his own work as evidential support. He is talented inside and outside of the classroom, and he always stays humble and kind.

Phu has been a consistent participant on the *swimming* team for 4 years, and the *water polo* team for 3 years. He enjoys the physical challenge of the sports, but even more so, he has shared with me that he enjoys the mental toughness aspect that it requires. It is this very thing that has earned him a *Coaches Award* and *Most Valuable Swimmer Award* in two different seasons. He invests time into his interests. He has spent multiple hours exploring Microsoft Office, digital literacy, and coding for some relative certificates by reputable companies. Through his church community he is a regular at facilitating *Sunday School* or being in the *mass ritual* procedures. I was never surprised to hear about his volunteerism because he has shown that type of compassion and kindness in the classroom. A small anecdote of this was when he often offered others the chance to ask me their questions before his during a lunch or class hour. In fact, he would courteously be helpful towards the conversation if he had knowledge to contribute. He participates with the greater purpose in mind.

In *AP Stats*, he was the leader in his group's *Response Bias Project*: "Will revealing false results influence people to conform their answer?" The task included a quality structure for a multi-stage stratified random sample of 63 high school students. The experiment provided three treatments, one being a control group with an unbiased question, and two questions with additional information that may influence the subjects' answers. It was unique that Phu's group was the only one to try to influence a bias from both sides of the question, but it worked effectively. I remember that during the presentation he articulated the hypothesis of the group project as well as the effort to avoid confounding variables so that inferences from the project could be made. Additionally, he articulated some personal critiques of how the project could be improved for the next time. As with any other day in class he presented strongly and clearly with proper jargon.

LYRA HUA
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

MARY BARRETT-WONG
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

EAST SIDE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

CHRIS FUNK, SUPERINTENDENT

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE EAST SIDE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NOT TO DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF SEX, AGE, RELIGION, RACE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR HANDICAPPING CONDITION IN ITS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND ACTIVITY OR IN THE RECRUITMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL.



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Phu is very well-prepared. He came into office hours daily to make sure every homework and quiz problem made *more* sense, even if it was already correct! His tenacity to learn helped inform my teaching because I could recognize the details that I was short in explaining to my class based on his *spot-on* questions. This is the type of work ethic that represents Phu, and here it is in his own words, "having a good work ethic is to be diligent and responsible for my actions, and to be able to persevere during challenging times." He has persevered. It was his parents' divorce which led him to come to the U.S. in 2015 from Vietnam. Tough as it was, he, his brother, and dad left his biological mother behind. He will be a first-generation college student. He is bilingual in his first language of Vietnamese and second English, and is becoming very familiar with the French language through school. He has been remarkably successful and never takes his learning opportunities for granted.

Phu was great at making connections of *statistics* to real world applications. In his own words, "from as simple as making a basketball shot to the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster, knowledge of statistics is crucial to the odds of what happens." He passed the AP Stats exam with a 5. He truly took advantage of tutoring opportunities and he was very helpful to engaging other students to join in learning as well. He is a fantastic student who has accomplished many things, but still the best is yet to come. I know that he already has his mind set on earning a 4-year degree because he is very aware that his path through a quality education could be life changing for him and his family. There is no doubt in my mind that he will achieve all of this and much more. He will contribute to the student body by being an active participant in clubs and activities, such as he is here in the *Vietnamese Student Association* and *Animal Allies*. He will make his future college campus better. I unequivocally recommend Phu Dang for entrance into your institute of higher learning.

Sincerely,

Joseph Sandate

AP Statistics / Math Teacher

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