



EVANSVILLE DAY SCHOOL

10/28/10

I have had the pleasure of teaching Dharmin in AP Chemistry as a junior and he is currently enrolled in my AP Computer Science class as a senior. I have also worked with him in a Research in Science course and on the Indiana Science Academic Bowl team. In my nine years of teaching, Dharmin is one of the top 5% of students I have taught based on his solid fundamental knowledge and his creative problem solving abilities. As a Ph.D. chemist who worked in industry for over 20 years, I would want Dharmin on my team.

In eight years of teaching AP Chemistry, Dharmin was one of only two juniors to take the class. Not only did he receive an A in the course but he scored a five on the AP exam. Dharmin's knowledge of chemistry fundamentals was the best of anyone I have taught during my years of teaching. He was easily able to build on his fundamental knowledge and achieve mastery of the topics at a level far beyond the normal high school student. Occasionally he would solve problems in equilibrium or kinetics in unique ways that I had not observed.

Dharmin is a kinesthetic learner. In laboratory experiments if he encountered obstacles he would ask me for suggestions; he would then implement these suggestions. Many times he didn't want me to demonstrate a technique for him, he would set a process up on his own, only asking for my critique after completing the task. If this didn't work, he would try again. I have not found this behavior typical of a high school student. His laboratory notebook entries were very thorough, good enough for others to set up and repeat his experiments.

This year, in AP Computer Science, Dharmin has pushed himself to new levels. He is always doing extra problems, either from the textbook or the internet. Several times he has tested the limits of my knowledge of the subject as he demonstrated recently when he programmed a solution for a very difficult permutation problem. I constantly see evidence of his math knowledge as he programs solutions for different problems. Dharmin has found it very easy to communicate in the language of Java; I enjoy discussions with him combining math and programming. It is clear that his passion lies in the arena of computer science.

Dharmin is one of the most unpretentious students I have taught, he never uses his knowledge to make other people think about how intelligent he is. He is one of the few students I have taught who will stand behind his answer even if others in class disagree with him. In both AP chemistry and AP computer science, Dharmin is one of the "go to" students his peers seek when they encounter problems. I have observed him trying several different approaches to explain difficult concepts to other students; who then seem to grasp the problem.

In summary, Dharmin will excel at computer science. I look forward to following his career through college and beyond. Solid fundamental knowledge and creative problem solving will help Dharmin achieve high goals for himself throughout his life.

Sincerely yours,

Harold C. Faulkner, III, Ph.D.

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