

March 24, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of Matthew McHan. I first met Matthew at the start of this school year as he observed and assisted in all my classes throughout the Fall semester. As his master teacher, I came to see firsthand his deep knowledge, skill, and boundless energy. His assistance has been invaluable, advising students on how to resolve their work, and acting as a sounding board for me as I sought to incorporate new ideas into my lessons. When he took charge of my Drawing 2 class this Spring, instead of taking the easy path and mimicking my lessons, he came up with his own ambitious assignments. With each project, Matthew creates a PowerPoint presentation showcasing the artwork of historic and contemporary masters that explore both artistic skills and concepts. This gives students a firm foundation from which to build their own ideas. He further reinforces the skill or technique by doing an in-class demonstration. Finally, he often creates a piece himself for the students to reference. This three step process was especially helpful to the ELL and SPED students that constitute a significant portion of the class. As a further aid to our ELL students, he makes sure to translate all handouts and rubrics in the students' native languages. As the projects evolve, he constantly circulates about the room offering one-on-one feedback, demonstrating the technique, and answering questions. His class has been rigorous, comprehensive, and enjoyable.

More than anything, Matthew has been extremely generous with his time and energy. He often stays late, helping students in classes other than his own and assists teachers in our department. Specifically, he has been extremely helpful in my AP Studio 2D class, showing students advanced painting techniques and critiquing their work. It's been a great asset to have another opinion, and the advanced students readily respond to his thoughtful and detailed explanations. As a classically trained and practicing artist, Matthew walks his talk, and that credibility makes his teaching very powerful to his students.

I welcome the opportunity to speak with you further should you have any additional questions. You can reach me on my cell phone at (415) 310-1571 or at geiserc@sfusd.edu.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christian Geiser
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