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To Whom It May Concern:

In my twenty-plus years of teaching public school students, I've encountered numerous individuals who have proven to be not only excellent students, but excellent human beings. When I consider those many students, one student immediately comes to the forefront of that thinking: Jake Studebaker. It was my honor and privilege to have taught Jake both seventh grade social studies and science. Jake impressed me with his problem-solving skills, ability to think on his feet, and with his spirit of cooperativeness working with students from various socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. My classes are literally hands-on experiences that utilize small group settings and labs; Jake quickly excelled in this environment and became not only a leader but a tutor to his peers.

What makes all the aforementioned accolades remarkable is that Jake exhibits these characteristics in a non-presumptuous, humble demeanor. I found him both helpful and enthusiastic in all activities. His positive attitude and spirit of collaboration enabled him to easily work with others and adapt to whatever learning situation that arose. It is my opinion, based on prolonged observation, that Jake is a lifelong learner and one who accepts and meets challenges with determination, logical thought, and energy to get the job done.

As an educator, I too, am a lifelong learner. As a person, I strive to be better each day. Jake taught me every day about determination, the indomitable human spirit, and the joy that living each day brings to all of us as human beings. He made me a better teacher and a better person. It is with great pride that I recommend him for any and all learning opportunities that would enable him to be creative, expand his knowledge, and collaboratively give his input.

Respectfully,

Billy K. Maxey

Teacher, Owl Creek School