

April 9, 2015

Hello,

This letter is a recommendation for Zachary Hansel. Mr. Hansel and I have been friends since first grade, which is of itself a recommendation of the highest order. Although our lives have gone different directions over the years, we have remained in touch and I consider him a valued and trusted friend. He is someone who is kind, honest, forthright, and genuinely likes and cares about the people in his life. He is dedicated and passionate about family, friends, and indeed teaching.

While I have not had the chance to observe Mr. Hansel in the classroom, I have had conversations with him in which he has shared his experiences, his hopes, and his philosophy about teaching. In these conversations he was an inspiration and model for me as I too seek to develop as a teacher. Mr. Hansel expresses a passion for the students that stands out to me, an interest in who they are as people and how he can best communicate the topics at hand in a way that is heard and absorbed. He is creative in both manner and approach, engaging and inviting those he is around to enter into a conversation and a learning process. Teaching is clearly more than a job for him, his passion and insight points towards a calling, one that has renewed my own excitement about teaching.

Indeed, not only does he express a passion for teaching, he genuinely enjoys it, engaging students with new thoughts and ideas, helping them discover their own interests and potential. I honestly wish Mr. Hansel was teaching in my local school as I would love for my own kids to be in his classroom.

I offer this recommendation with enthusiasm. I recommend him wholeheartedly as a person and as a teacher. He would be a boon to any school that hires him, quickly becoming popular with both students and parents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'POden', is written over a faint, circular official stamp.

Patrick Oden, PhD
Assistant Professor, Azusa Pacific University
poden@apu.edu
(909)262-4170