



# Cajon High School

SAN BERNARDINO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Teenya Bishop, Principal

September 4, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Abigail Willis. I have known Abby for the past two-and-a-half years as a student of mine at Cajon High School in San Bernardino, California.

Writing a letter of recommendation for a high school student can be painful—depending upon one's true interpretation of said student—or even frustrating—depending upon one's lack of evidence or experience to provide an appropriate evaluation of said student. There is, however, the painfully frustrating letter born out of the potential and possibly sheer ineptitude of the words on this page to appropriately highlight the depth of a particular student. Abigail Willis is the student mentioned in the latter.

Firstly, Abby can be described as perceptive and evaluative. She embodies someone with the wherewithal to observe, infer, and determine a course of action or a response based on the information available. This, with the knowledge she has acquired over time, allows Abby to identify multiple options and guides her through the process. She does not believe that she is capable of recognizing that she has the answer to every possible situation or scenario, but she does demonstrate the ability to process and evaluate. This shows that she acts within the limits of her capabilities and her environment. Abby can also be described as indomitable and meticulous. Even if a task appears insurmountable, her competitive spirit does not allow her to back down. She is motivated to prove her merit. She is motivated to prove that she can accomplish anything that she wants. This drive is something that will lead her to success because it will not allow her to sit on the sidelines and miss out on the various opportunities presented before her because she was afraid of the task or the competition. Abby will not fold or crumble under this stress. Her determinations and mental fortitude pushes her into the uncomfortable and puts her in control of her success. While many students stumble through the tasks put before them, Abby would meet the challenge with the knowledge that she would be successful. That determination and that character is what we should look for in our students ... in our future generation. Finally, I would describe Abby as empathetic. This is one of those traits that are often overlooked in determining a person's merit, for whatever reason. I would make a case, however, that overlooking traits that distinguish between a successful student and a successful student that is also a good human being is a gross oversight. We want to see our young people achieve success without a sense of isolation and without a sense of detachment. Students can graduate at the expense of others, never pausing to question their means to success or the journey there, and then there are students like Abby that are aware of their impact on others and are concerned about the gravity of that impact. Compassion is an emotional response that allows Abby to make those around her better.

Getting students to be successful in school while also being more than that is harder and harder to come by. There are few students like Abby that serve as models of what you want your school to embody, all while doing so in the most rigorous classes and course load that your school offers. We are always looking for students to be successful academically, but to be that and also be a high-quality, well-respected individual is another thing. Abby is definitely the latter. I'm looking for the youth of today to strive to be better. I'm looking for an indomitable internal strength. I'm looking for passion. And, at the end of the day, I'm looking for someone that I'd like to be around because when you have good character, you have good character. Good people make the world better, but, at the same time, those people need to have the skills to do so.

I believe that Abigail Willis is an excellent model for Cajon High School students. She has demonstrated that she has the knowledge and determination to be a successful student and positive member of our community. Abby is someone that you would like to represent you.

Respectfully,

Jimmy Gondos  
Cajon High School  
1200 W. Hill Drive  
San Bernardino, CA 92404  
[jimmy.gondos@sbcusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:jimmy.gondos@sbcusd.k12.ca.us)