



April 11, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter has been written in support of Emily Swanson. Emily is a senior at Harborside Academy. Harborside Academy is a charter school that was started six years ago with the help of a federal charter school grant and a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant. We have a great group of students. Emily is no exception.

In the past four years I have learned that Emily is a great student and even better person. She upholds the highest of moral standards while consistently exhibiting a remarkable work ethic. She is quite simply the type of student that any educator would be proud to work with. Emily has worked rigorously throughout her high school career and is ranked eleventh academically in her graduating class of 112. Her teachers would agree that she makes class more enjoyable and more interesting for all. Included in her academics are honors classes and music, playing flute, piano in band and jazz band and much more. Emily participates in several athletic programs, playing soccer, varsity tennis, and is on the Kenosha Varsity LaCrosse team. Emily is the president of Harborside's intramural Ski & Snowboard Club. She received MVP in 2012 for tennis and several all-around awards for character and leadership.

Community service is an important part of the curriculum at Harborside. Emily has logged 1000+ volunteer hours from participating in Harborside's Character Quest Club, our Outward Bound Mentor program, National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD Club) president, Yearbook editor, Student Council plus several hours from various service opportunities within Kenosha community. This summer, Emily completed her senior service project as she traveled to Africa on a week-long mission trip. A lot of students talk about being great and doing great things, but it is tough to find actions that back up their words. Emily is the opposite. She is the perfect example of a person who leads through action.

The past three years, Emily has also served as a Student Ambassador for Harborside. In fact, this year, she is the Co-President of this prestigious group. Students in this group tour visiting teachers and administrators as they visit our school. (*As the Midwest mentor school for Expeditionary Learning, this is an very important group for us.*) Emily has also co-presented with me at countless parent and perspective student information sessions. In fact, Emily is "the new face of Harborside". She is the host of our new student recruitment video on our website <http://harborside.kusd.edu>. She is currently serving as our KUSD student representative on the District's Board of Education.

Emily is a great student who has her head and her heart in the right place. She fits well into all peer groups and shows great interpersonal skills as she encounters countless new and unique situations. Someday, I am sure, she is going to impress a University staff in the same way that she has here at Harborside. As I said earlier, she is exactly the kind of student that any educator would be thrilled to teach.

I have written a LOT of student recommendations in my fourteen years as a Principal, but I want to be clear about this letter. Emily has to be in the top one percent of kids that I have been asked to serve. Integrity, responsibility, academic ability, tenacity, and work ethic - she has it all. I PROMISE that you will find her to be all of these things, and more.

For all these reasons, I ask that you please strongly consider her application.

Sincerely,

Bill Haithcock
Harborside Principal