



# Science/Engineering Magnet High School



Blue Ribbon School 2005-2011



To whom it may concern:

Taylor is a bit of an anachronism. He's been raised by his grandparents using a model that was honestly a little old-fashioned when they were raising their own kids: it's all early to bed, early to rise, plenty of chores, and you aren't going to spend all summer sitting around young man, you can be chopping wood and mowing lawns to save for college. There was also a great deal of unconditional love and mutual respect. Together, that combination has shaped a strong-minded, hard-working, ethical and rational young man who manages to be both socially awkward and oddly charming.

Taylor has an interesting brain. He soaks up information like a sponge, reading at the very highest level: he has an enormous, robust vocabulary and is comfortable with long and archaic texts. He reads the way a person reads when raised by grandparents who didn't believe in screentime and who were happy to find him some chores if he were bored. He talks all that information and files it away in some crazy system, the cognitive equivalent of a Mad Scientist's journals. I know this is true because he makes connections that are at times brilliant, at times spurious, and always interesting. He processes everything through quirky analogies, odd comparisons, and non-intuitive connections. When the connections are spurious, he's very polite and very willing to listen to the counter-argument, but never blindly accepts someone else's point of view—Taylor has to come to his own understanding. Luckily, all that information and all those connections mean that his own understanding is very complex, and while he at times gets lost in the forest of his own vast mind, he always finds his way back.

Taylor's incredible ability to read is matched by a strong narrative voice: he's a good writer. Here, again, there's a tendency to organize information in a way that's somewhat counterintuitive—the order that makes sense to him, his sense of what is important and what is detail—is sometimes a little non-typical, but there's an undeniable brilliance there and a strong natural voice. I always genuinely looked forward to reading his essays. He's much more interested in ideas than in people: even in literary analysis he always wanted to quickly bypass questions of character and motivation and get into the really complex abstract ideas underlying the personal.

Taylor is a hard worker with absolutely no expectations of short-term gratification. He's very willing to set a long term goal and work toward it in stages, and supremely confident that if the plan is good and he does what he needs to do, it will work out in the end—however far away that is. He was raised in a household where hard-work and self-reliance and general competency were important virtues, and he's adopted that worldview without hesitation.

Taylor would be a wonderful addition to any academic community. He's absolutely academically on par with any of his peers, but his background, his frame of reference, his sense of how things connect is so unique that he can't help but inspire true intellectual dialogue. He's patient and polite and respectful and he truly loves to learn. I highly recommend him.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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Ms. Tiffany R. Huitt, Principal

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