



FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

December 30, 2020

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing this letter to you in support of Anthony Alvarado's application to the doctoral fellowship at San Jose State University.

I have known Anthony for over three years now and can vouch for his integrity in the workplace, his devotion to our students and their families and his continuous search for self-improvement.

I became Anthony's master teacher for two years at Franklin School. I got to know him very well as we worked very closely in first grade his first year. He was an exemplary student. He was eager to learn, work hard and share his thoughts. He continuously offered his help to our grade level in any possible way and with an incredibly positive attitude. He had (and still has) the capability of taking on a great number of tasks and completing them all well. His schoolwork and his class work were completed in a professional manner and with attention to details.

We continued working closely the second year when he moved on to third grade. I observed him in his classroom, and we had daily conversations that we logged. He showed great adaptability taking his knowledge acquired in first and applying it in third.

He very soon became the leader of that grade level. He helped the teachers in his grade level focus on data to drive their instruction. He helped them with technology by sharing sites that help student learning, showing the other teachers how to navigate the District's site and where to find and how to analyze the data they found. He created his own website. His website was easy to navigate and had all the apps and links that students needed or, that families needed. He encouraged the teachers in his grade level to do the same.

I would often see Anthony in the office offering his help to the secretaries with any tech issue that would arise. They both held him in great esteem as he would never say no to solving a problem for them. And again, always with a smile.

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That second year he surprised me as he took on a gigantic task. He already had taken on being leader of third grade, all his BTSA responsibilities, his adjunct duties (art fair, science fair) being the go-to teacher when the principal was away and having an inspiring and exemplary classroom. He proceeded to create a STEAM lab for our students. And he did a magnificent job. He found the space. Downloaded and printed out all the lessons. Organized the materials and informed the teachers. All teachers had to do was to go to the lab, at their assigned time, and work with their students.

When COVID hit and we had to go into Distance Learning mode, Anthony stepped up and was an asset to our school and staff. He was always and, at any time, a text away to help any staff member, student or parent who needed guidance with the new way of doing school. He created a good number of short videos that would help parents and students understand how to access and operate Google Classroom. He would Zoom meet with students to explain how to complete tasks or how to access different sites.

This school year, 2020-2021, he continues to help whoever needs him as we are still in Distance Learning mode. He reflected on how to make school as normal as possible. He came up with a Zoom award ceremony. He organized the event with some help, and it was memorable. He converted the STEAM lab into an online variation that kids and parents can access. He also helps the principal with some of the PDs that we hold on Zoom.

If I had to highlight Anthony's best quality and the one quality that makes him a great candidate for your program, it would be his devotion and caring of other people. We need people in our educational system who sincerely care about all our students and make them believe in themselves. That is all it takes; that one champion.

Sincerely,

Christina Beilby

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