



T H E B E N J A M I N F R A N K L I N I N T E R N A T I O N A L S C H O O L

November 20, 2006

**Re: Daniel Lazar**

To whom it may concern:

I write this letter on behalf of Mr. Daniel Lazar, who has been a high school history teacher at BFIS and under my supervision for two years. I would recommend Mr. Lazar to any high school looking for a history and social studies teacher.

Mr. Lazar has been a dynamic presence on our high school team and a leader among our teachers. He asks critical questions, of his colleagues and administration, that are always about how we can do better as an institution of learning. He challenges and demands much of his students, in terms of their academic achievement and their citizenship, and is regularly recognized by them for his rigorous approach. Even with the considerable demands of his courses, the list of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students signing up was long.

Mr. Lazar is one of the hardest working teachers you will find. He is a voracious reader and student of history, politics and current affairs, and asks his students to be much the same. He has taken them to films on weekends that bear on their study of American history. He has invited them to community discussions on electoral politics in the evenings. Most importantly, he demands of them a rigor of scholarship that has helped most of them raise the quality of their research habits, and of their critical reading and writing skills. He makes himself available to help students at lunchtimes and after school – as much as any teacher I have seen. Mr. Lazar proposed, designed and now teaches a mini-course for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders called the “High School Transition Seminar” that filled a scheduling hole and met a critical educational need. He teaches an additional section of AP Comparative Government after school for those students who had a scheduling conflict with the offered section of the course. Mr. Lazar often asks if the school will be open for him on the weekends, and was one of the very few teachers who was still here over a week into summer vacation, planning his courses, readings and syllabi for September.

It bears mentioning additionally that: Mr. Lazar also serves as the faculty sponsor of the National Honor Society; he presented a workshop on interdisciplinary units at the Mediterranean Association of International Schools Conference this year; and he attended the summer institute and training for the AP Comparative Government course.

Daniel Lazar will be immensely missed when he leaves BFIS. Any school that hires him will be adding a key player to its own team. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Daniel McKee  
Middle & High School Principal

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