



February 22, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Saklan has been lucky to have Jonathan Martin as its head and I was lucky to have him as a supervisor and mentor for four years. Jonathan hired me in 2003 to serve as the director of the middle school division. Throughout my years at Saklan, Jonathan and I met frequently to strategize, problem-solve and discuss educational vision and philosophy. Meeting on nearly a daily basis for four years I came to know Jonathan quite well and I have developed the very highest admiration for his abilities and principles.

Soon after meeting Jonathan, nearly everyone comments on his encyclopedic intellect, and I witnessed innumerable instances when his outstanding recall helped him form connections with and between families. Saklan benefited from his outstanding ability to interpret and analyze testing and admissions data, come up with creative solutions to scheduling issues and his thoughtful and flexible approach to parent and faculty issues. Because Jonathan also possesses a genuine appreciation of the skills and opinions of others, his intellectual ability is celebrated by all.

Jonathan is also an outstanding mentor. He is always eager to celebrate the growth and accomplishments of his staff and he uses his strong connections to the independent school community to present and promote growth opportunities to faculty members and division directors. For example Jonathan encouraged me to apply for the NAIS Ford Fellowship for aspiring heads and made sure that our school funded this fellowship. His enthusiastic support for professional growth extends even beyond the school as he is encouraging and gracious when his faculty and administrators seek to continue their professional growth by leaving Saklan.

A visionary leader, Jonathan also helps direct Saklan's energy and attention towards important curricular and pedagogical progress. He was an ardent supporter of the middle school's move towards more experiential learning program and he helped establish the schools tradition of offering week long academic trips developed and lead by classroom teachers. Saklan also benefited from Jonathan's visionary insight into the trends of education. Under his direction Daniel Pink's 'A whole new mind' became Saklan's professional development read for the summer of 2006.

Most importantly Jonathan holds a clear vision of *why* we work with students. From difficult parent discussion to complex divisional issues, Jonathan's uncanny ability to re-focus the conversation around 'what's best for the kids' invariably guided our discussions towards better ends. This vision – coupled with Jonathan's scrupulous honesty and deep integrity- made him a pleasure to work for. With Jonathan as your head you will have an experienced leader of considerable ability who will inspire growth in your faculty while inspiring trust and dedication to the school's goals of outstanding education. He has my full recommendation.

Sincerely,

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