

March 27, 2020

Letter of Recommendation for Christopher Layton:

I am a seasoned educator currently serving as Secondary Principal of Horizon Christian School in Hood River, OR. I have known Christopher Layton for and had the pleasure of interacting with him in a variety of settings, including volunteer, professional, and personal settings. Christopher is a man I am proud to have hired. He is personable, teachable, reliable, and extremely capable at whatever he puts his mind to.

Christopher is open to thoughts and ideas of others. He is personable. I have served with him in developing curriculum and training enabling our staff, and eventually students, to move to digital instruction through the use iPads. He has done this by sharing his vision for this initiative and aggressively listening to input of the other staff members. Christopher's forward thinking, methodical and logical planning, and patient coaching of Horizon staff in monthly Inservices, is probably single handedly responsible for our school's successful launch of classes online within 72 hours of the Covid 19 statewide school suspension in mid-March of this year. His leadership on this project was truly phenomenal making us weeks ahead of all the other schools in our region. As a part of Christopher's team, I have always felt confident in his ability to lead us into the era of digital schooling.

Christopher is teachable. Over the past 3 years, our teaching team at Horizon has been on another paradigm-shifting journey exploring what it would mean to have our classrooms structured to be radically learner-centered and visual in nature. Christopher has done the hard work to embrace this paradigm shift incorporating it integrally into the digital education initiative previously mentioned. He did countless hours of research to ensure that the new technology would enhance rather than detract from our preferred teaching model. When we were ready to roll out the technology to the teachers, Christopher was able to demonstrate and articulate the ways the new devices would create a visual learning experience for both teachers and students. This allowed our staff and students to move forward with confidence as we explored the interface of our new teaching paradigm and the technology we were adopting.

He is always a positive contributor as our group learns and grows together. He is a quick learner and is not afraid to ask questions when he doesn't know the answers. This is also a necessary character quality in a teacher, the constant desire to continue learning. It is what helps us continually refine our craft in order to better serve our students. Christopher has this one down.

Probably Christopher's most outstanding character is his reliability. If he says he will do something, it will get done and done well. He exhibits an extremely high level of integrity in all that he puts his hand to. He sees a need and does his part to fill it well. Very rarely have I seen him drop the ball, and if it does happen, he owns it and makes it right.

As you are aware, these are traits imperative for success as a teacher and designer of curriculums. They are traits that when solidly in place the daily nuts and bolts of being a teacher become much easier to master. Christopher has a tremendous amount of experience instructing and teaching a variety of topics. It's just how he approaches life; he is a natural teacher.

Finally, I believe you will find that Christopher is just plain likeable. His personality and approach really bring out the best in others.

Sincerely-
Faith Kempf, Secondary Principal
Horizon Christian School