

April 19, 2017

Charles Mingus  
Mathematics Teacher, Charter High School  
333 Rolly Ave  
Furtherville, UT, 60210

To The J.D. Smith Memorial Scholarship Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Prince Hedges, who I taught in my 11th grade math class, for the J.D. Smith Memorial Scholarship. Prince demonstrated tremendous effort and growth throughout the year I taught him and always brought a focused energy to class. He has that combination of a positive attitude and the belief that he can always improve that's rare in a high school student, but so essential to the learning process. I am confident that he will continue to display the same commitment and diligence in everything he does. Your scholarship is intended for students who have had a rough start in life and who need financial assistance to realize their academic dreams. Prince deserves to be able to go to the college of his choosing, and this scholarship will enable him to do so.

Prince would not describe himself as a math person. He's told me on several occasions that he can't get his head around a mathematical problem. I always smile when he said this, because he ultimately always found the solution on his own with only a faint hint of which direction, he should be thinking in. Where so many others have given up, Joe maintained a high average throughout the year. He stayed after school for extra help, got extra tutoring at the nearby college, and asked questions in and out of class. Prince has truly demonstrated a growth mindset, and he inspired his peers to adopt that valuable perspective, too. Prince helped contribute to our classroom environment to be one where all students can feel supported and able to ask questions.

Prince's strong belief in his ability to acquire new skills and improve through practice was likely shaped by his years as a hockey player. He's played all through high school and is one of the team's most valuable players. In his final project for our class, Prince completed an impressive statistics report on defense versus offense in NHL teams and made a strong case for the defense being the dominate deciding factor of every Stanley Cup winner since the year 2000. While he initially described himself as not being a math person, Prince found a way to make the subject come alive for him in a way that he was personally invested in. As a teacher, it is incredibly fulfilling to witness a student make this kind of academic and personal progress.

Prince is an outstanding student and individual who supports others in and out of the classroom. He was a pleasure to have in class, and his positive attitude and belief in himself, even in the face of difficulty, is an immensely admirable asset. I'm confident that he will continue to demonstrate the same diligence, perseverance, and optimism that he showed myself and his peers. I give my highest recommend for Prince to receive the J.D. Smith Memorial Scholarship. Please feel free to contact me with any further questions at [charlesmingus@email.com](mailto:charlesmingus@email.com).

Sincerely,

Mr. Charles Mingus

Math Teacher

Charter High School