

February 25, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am thrilled to have the opportunity to write Sharon Fuerst a letter of recommendation.

My son and I have worked with Sharon for approximately six months. My son was struggling in Biology and he asked if I could get him a tutor for extra help. Thanks to a recommendation of a friend, I was able to receive Sharon's contact information.

From a parent perspective, I have been so pleased working with Sharon. She is extremely organized with her schedule and time. I can always count on her to meet our agreed twice per week tutoring commitment. In addition, Sharon has been extremely helpful working with my teenage son's teachers to get a solid gauge on homework deliverables and following the weekly curriculum. As a single mom, I am so appreciative of her love of teaching and enthusiasm for learning. I have observed Sharon working with my son and she is extremely patient and empathetic to his unique style of learning. She has a way about her that engages my son even when he is dreading the work. She keeps things lighthearted, yet she has the unique ability to teach difficult concepts in an engaging manner. My son feels her support and overall interest in my him. It is noticeable in his overall confidence – he feels like she wants him to do well, too.

I asked my son what he enjoys most about working with Sharon. He spouted off a half dozen answers in seconds! He said he loves the way she teaches. In particular, he finds it very helpful that she explains things in different ways when he does not understand a concept. She can easily identify when he doesn't understand something, even if he initially does not want to admit his lack of understanding. Sharon never makes him feel "less than" when answering his questions. My son finds Sharon to be very knowledgeable in Biology. She explains concepts logically and succinctly and he said he finds her very engaging. A major compliment from a teenager!!! She has also been extremely helpful finding additional handouts to help explain different topics. She goes way beyond our initial tutoring request and we are so grateful for that. My son admitted that sometimes he gets overwhelmed with Biology and gets down on himself. However, he said she notices when he gets like that and she finds ways to be funny and outgoing to help get him through those moments. She is extremely empathetic with my son depending on the day or topic. Finally, he said to make sure I mention that she works very hard for her students. As a parent, I agree one hundred percent. Sharon has taught my son different tools to memorize definitions, how to organize his notes, and she has introduced different games to play to reinforce learning material. My son has ADD and teaching him to memorize has been tough. Sharon has helped to breakthrough that barrier and now index cards are an integral component of his learning style. She reinforces the importance of active learning which is how my son learns best. My world got so much easier with Sharon's expertise.

Last week I received a call from my son. His voice was excited and full of joy. He screamed into the phone and said "mom guess what? I got a 90% on my Biology Cell test." I was filled with happiness for my son and his love of doing well in a subject that is super challenging for him. I was happiest knowing he was happy, he felt confident, and he worked hard with Sharon to get this result. With this success, I feel like it was a team win because Sharon is so much a part of the success he is feeling. There is no price for the joy he felt with this achievement.

I strongly recommend Sharon for any upcoming Ed Tech or teaching jobs. She has made a difference in our life and I know other children will feel the same.

Sincerely,

Kathy Wills

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