

Robert MacDougall
447 South Main Street
Andover, Massachusetts

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To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Jay Rideout for many years and I have always regarded him as a very intelligent, honest, sincere, and competent young man. As a student back in my class in the 1980's, he was thorough and conscientious and very successful; as my assistant women's track coach in the 1990's, he was a gifted motivator and teacher of the fundamentals in sport; and as a substitute teacher, he was able to carry on the classes he was assigned without a problem, even when the absent teacher did not leave a plan. Thus, when it came time to fill a long-term substitute position in the English Department, I knew right where to look and Jay did not disappoint.

As Humanities Department Head, I was left with three classes to cover when their teacher, without much notice, decided to leave in the middle of the year. Mr. Rideout came into the position "cold," but within a few days I could see a marked change occurring in the classroom that I could observe from my office directly across the hall. Students who had been undisciplined suddenly became attentive; classes that had often ended ten to fifteen minutes early were now working right up until the bell. Mr. Rideout was incorporating a variety of learning strategies designed to reach several learning styles and he was getting the attention of all the students with his energetic and well-organized approach. I could not have put the classes in better hands.

I retired last June and since that time Mr. Rideout has taken a position as a math teacher at Tewksbury High School. It is emblematic of his intelligence and general competence that Mr. Rideout is certified and able to skillfully teach both English and math. I understand that he is doing an excellent job which, given his history, does not surprise me in the least. I am confident he can do an outstanding job in any classroom, in any situation, in any school. If you have any further questions that I can answer about Mr. Rideout, I can be reached at the above address or 978-475-1652.

Sincerely,

Robert MacDougall
Humanities Department Head (retired)
Tewksbury Memorial High School