

# Letter of Reference for Ryan Rooney

Dr. Brian C. Kanouse

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Brian Kanouse, and I am writing to give insight as to the character of Ryan Rooney. In what follows, I will address his sensitivity to moral problems, his willingness to stand up for his principles and for others, and the integrity he displays through the way he carries himself

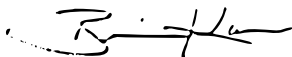
Ryan has stayed after class on numerous occasions to discuss moral issues that have arisen in this life, usually for the first time. Those conversations have included his religious beliefs and concerns, how he should react to discriminative behavior from others, and how he can relate to himself in a more principled fashion. On each of these occasions, I have been extremely impressed with the earnestness in which the questions are asked, the compassionate nature of his concerns, and the clear self-reflection it displays. Ryan's insightful and compassionate nature are nearly singular in relation to his peers, and I hold him in high regard due to this.

Additionally, I have seen Ryan stand up for others on numerous occasions, and his willingness to go to the proper authorities to address problems that range from the destruction of property, bullying, and drug abuse. This is extremely uncommon in the high school setting, as the consequences can be unexpected and normally undesired. However, his principles drive him to do what he is called to do and not what might make him more comfortable, popular, or to become someone who looks the other way.

Finally, Ryan carries himself with humility and confidence, which is also rare. Many of his peers express self-deprecation or a boastfulness that comes from a lack of maturity. He is a developing leader, and those two traits display the intention behind becoming one. He genuinely wants what is best for those around him. Next year, as a senior, it is quite clear that he will be the captain of his baseball team. I have no prior knowledge of this, but I would be hard pressed to say that it will not occur. It doesn't come "naturally" to him, which is commonly said as a way of dismissing the work someone puts into something. He is intentional with his actions, which makes them as authentic as they are.

I genuinely like being around Ryan. He is a stellar person, in addition to being a solid student and an excellent athlete. When we say "well-rounded," I believe that Ryan ought to be seen as the prototype. If more information is needed, please contact me at [bkanouse@brusd.org](mailto:bkanouse@brusd.org) or by phone, at 603-903-4763.

Best,



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