

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very pleased to recommend Carl Vellotti for admission to your university program, whom I have known since he was a little kid. During this time, I have seen him grow into an outstanding student and a role model for his peers.

I first met Carl when he was still in elementary school at a chess tournament that my son played in about seven years ago. Since then I have seen him regularly at the chess tournaments almost once a month for quite a few years. In these tournaments, Carl not only played but also helped organizing by setting up boards and keeping things in order all the time.

I have come to know Carl even more and better since about 3 years ago when my son started taking private lessons from him about once every two weeks. By this time Carl had become the highest rated teen chess player in Idaho and a State Champion. To some people, learning chess could be a hard intellectual challenge and sometimes tedious and boring, but Carl not only teaches students chess skills, but also makes it an enjoyable learning experience by telling interesting stories, such as the people he met and things that happened during the chess tournaments that he went to all over the country.

Another asset Carl possesses is that he has a natural personality and character to connect with people. For example, my son loves basketball and plays in the local AAU Basketball League. Carl also happens to play on his high school basketball team, so Carl always has basketball related things to talk about with my son during the private lessons. Sometimes it was the results of their AAU games, and sometimes it was the things that happened in the NBA or to the NBA players. All these things make my son look forward to going to the private lessons and keep him fresh throughout the one hour otherwise long session.

With Carl's help, my son's chess skill has improved steadily over the years. This can be seen from the results of the annual Idaho Scholastic Chess Tournament. My son has finished among the top five the last few years and finally this year he became the State Champion by winning the first place trophy in the seventh grade section.

Overall, Carl is an extraordinary student and young man and will make a great addition to your institute. I wholeheartedly recommend him and wish him the very best in all future endeavors. If you have any questions about this individual, please don't hesitate to contact me at 208-908-1364.

Sincerely,

Sean Ma