

Alexander Kienker - Letter of Recommendation

Dear TCI Foundation Scholarship Committee,

We often call our son Alexander "Ol' Reliable." He earned this nickname by being diligent, perceptive, and dependable in any task we asked of him. We noticed his sharp mind and observant temperament when he was a toddler, treating him as a peer to his brother who was two years older than him. He has grown to be a bright, easy-going young man who knows what it takes to reach his goals.

Alexander taught himself how to recognize and write the alphabet at age 3. When he was 3 ½, we had friends over to our house, and one of the 12-year-old girls climbed up to the top of the outdoor playset and wrote her name with chalk upside down and backwards on the wood so that you could read it the correct way when looking at it from the ground. Alexander watched her the whole time, and when she was done, he grabbed the chalk and slowly did the same with his long name. We knew he was always watching and learning from others, but this made us realize that he not only was curious about learning new things, but was also determined to learn those skills on his own.

This determination has helped him be successful in both school and his extracurricular activities. Alexander has always excelled in math, but he discovered a love of literature in middle school, and his teachers have told us they were impressed by his literary analysis and writing skills. He enjoyed reading plays such as *Twelve Angry Men* and *Macbeth*, as well as appreciating the poetry of Emily Dickinson. When he started high school, he registered for dual credit courses at the local community college and managed his class schedule on his own.

We started Alexander on piano when he was 6. Practicing was not a chore to him; he enjoyed sitting at the piano and playing through each week's assignments. By the time he was 10, his teacher knew he was ready for a big challenge and asked if he wanted to learn a piece that was a Piano Certification Level 9 (out of 10). He accepted the challenge, and practiced the difficult movement for well over a year until it was performance-ready.

Alexander is a smart, thoughtful young man, and would be an excellent recipient of your scholarship.

Thank you,



Lani Le
Counselor/Administrator