

107 Thackeray Street | Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Phone: 412-325-7620 | Fax: 412-622-5991 | www.pps.k12.pa.us/pst

Mr. Shawn McNeil, Principal

Dr. Darlene Corris, Director

RE: Letter of recommendation for Mr. Mark Rauterkus

March 20, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Mark Rauterkus. I have known Coach Mark for approximately 5 years when he was acting head coach of the boys high school swimming team at the Obama Academy in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Presently, I am the middle school swimming coach at the Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy in addition to being the instructional teacher leader for high school science. Mark and I continue our communication and interactions to support swimming in our community.

As a youngster, I was a devoted swimmer competing in the 1984 and 1988 US Olympic Trials in addition to competing throughout my collegiate career. I understand the sport and love of swimming and I was happy to rekindle my love with the sport, in part, at Mark's urging. Coach Mark is one of the most passionate persons I have encountered for the sport of swimming. Few others have his devotion to the sport and passion for building a high-quality program with our city's kids and families.

Coach Mark went far beyond the call of duty to care for the swimmers, build relationships with the students and advance the cause of sports, athletics and swimming within PPS in many ways. He has been instrumental in fostering water polo, skwim, and teaching young swimmers in the community how to swim. He is endless in his passion to encourage participation and give his time at any time of the day, during the week and on weekends.

Coach Mark was always interested in coming to our Middle-School practices, holding AM swim practices at Sci-Tech throughout the winter, and supporting the kids throughout the year with job opportunities, leading camp swim experiences for an extensive Summer Dreamers program he directed.

I have a great understanding of how hard it can be to coach in the district -- and our kids were fortunate to have such a talented aquatic leader in Coach Mark. He continues to learn the most up-to-date training techniques by attending the national United States Swimming Association meetings on his own time and dollar.

In the future, I hope that I can work with Coach Mark in some capacity. Take this letter as a high recommendation for Mark's ability. I'd hire him in a heartbeat.

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Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,



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