

November 8, 2009

To: Whom It May Concern

I have had the privilege of having my daughter Shefali Gupta under the tutelage of Mr. Jacques Weber for the past two years. She is a 9<sup>th</sup> Grade student at the American School of Bombay, and was taught French by Mr. Weber in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Shefali enjoyed learning French in his class and is appreciative of the way he made learning the language fun; he created a casual and positive learning environment that encouraged students to venture forth in French even if they were not confident of the accuracy of their spoken words. Shefali is pursuing French in High School and believes that Mr. Weber prepared her well to meet this challenge. He gave students several writing assignments that helped her in formulating both simple and complex sentences in French, and that skill has come in handy as she now has to write 200 word assignments each week. Some of the assignments required her to write stories based on pictures that fueled creativity and allowed her to use the various tenses covered in class. He taught them grammar terms and concepts and I am amazed that she found them useful in English learning as well. His homework policies helped her realize the importance of deadlines.

In my interactions with Mr. Weber, I have found him to be a very interesting person, who is very organized and prompt in addressing any concerns or communications. He is very curious about various cultures and people, and is warm and always approachable. I am impressed by his ability to learn new languages. It is easy to relate to him because we found we had shared similar experiences during our travels. In all cases, any issues or concerns or emails were answered swiftly. As a parent, I would be very pleased to see Mr. Weber in an administrative role because I believe that he is concerned about the overall development of his students, not just their academic growth. When I talked to him about our concern that Shefali seems to be a little hesitant in putting her French language skills to use outside the class, he suggested that she watch French videos, listen to French songs and perhaps attend a language immersion program. From his own experience as a teacher and then as a director of one such program, he recommended home-stay programs as being better at developing the confidence that she would need in using French to converse on a daily basis. I wish him the very best in his career.

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