

Recommendation letter for Mr. Jacques Weber

French had never been one of my strongest subjects and although I worked hard, I never felt like I had absorbed the language. Taking up French in the IB was indeed a challenging step as not only was the coursework tougher, but I had to also cope with a new teaching style, which was demanding.

Today when I look back, I realize that I have improved not only in delivery and articulation, but also gained the confidence to continue learning the language and take it up in college. I owe this majorly to Mr. Weber because it's his efforts that have helped me move out of my comfort zone and give my best.

As a teacher, Mr. Weber has always encouraged me to do better. He believed that I could achieve much more than what I already had - all it required was some more hard work and confidence. Speaking in French was something I always struggled with, rather something I feared. Incidentally or intentionally, my first assignment in class was a presentation. He said I would do just fine if I knew what I was talking about. Now, when I think about that presentation, I believe it was one of my most well-worked assignments in the course of 2 years. Not only did the presentation go well, but I managed to answer everybody's questions. I felt like I wasn't *that* bad after all.

What amazed me about him was that he managed to balance both his professional and lighter, rather comical side in class. From evaluating our written pieces, to singing a Hindi rap song, to cajoling everybody in some or the other way, he did everything it took to motivate us to move out of our comfort zone while developing a learning zone encouraging co-operation. I believe what makes Mr. Weber extraordinary is the 'one extra step' that he takes in making efforts to notice the strengths and weaknesses of each individual student.

It would be ignorant of me to say that Mr. Weber's knowledge is limited to the French language. From what I have understood of him as a teacher, I am confident that I will get an answer to anything and everything I ask, related to college, career options, jobs, or just something that falls under general knowledge - 'Stuff 101' as our class refers to it. Over the course of two years, I have appreciated Mr. Weber not just as a teacher, but for all the social causes/services that he was involved in, be it building houses at Sadhana village or sponsoring education for under-privileged kids.

Some of my best times in the last two years of school have undoubtedly taken place in the French classes with Mr. Weber. Not only have I managed to converse in French for a continuous 30 minutes by the end of 12th grade, but also realized that sometimes one has to move out of their comfort zone in order to achieve what they are capable of achieving. I'm glad to have known a teacher like him in the last two years of my high school.

Riddhi Shah