



# المدرسة الأمريكية الدولية The American International School

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

**Re: Mr. W. Brent Van Staalduin**

It is a special pleasure to have the opportunity to testify to the integrity of character and teaching ability of Mr. Brent Van Staalduin. I had the opportunity to work with and observe Brent at the American International School of Kuwait from August 2005 to present in my role as principal.

Mr. Van Staalduin has displayed a high level of professionalism as a teacher in the High School. Brent is extremely well organized leaving very little to chance in his preparation for his classes. He has developed a classroom atmosphere that is structured and has an established set of procedures and routines. Brent recognizes that a chaotic classroom hurts the quality of instruction of the class as well as creating the conditions for misbehavior. He has a wide variety of teaching, evaluation and classroom management strategies that allows him to differentiate his instruction to meet the needs of all students in his classroom.

During my tenure at AIS I have seen the quality of our student driven newspaper, of which Brent's Journalism class does the writing, increase considerably. Brent is passionate about the quality and poignancy of the paper while still maintaining the integrity of a 'student' produced paper. Last year he worked with the Desktop Publishing teacher to produce a full two page spread for a local English newspaper (The Kuwait Times). This was the culmination of hours of work and partnership with the Kuwait Times. The professionals from the newspaper came and worked with our students and our students also had an opportunity to go and work at their facility. This really was an outstanding project spearheaded by Brent.

He also recognizes his responsibility to contribute to the teaching profession. Brent has added to the development of his fellow educators at AIS and other professionals in Kuwait. He presented at the Professional Educators Association of Kuwait conference and was subsequently chosen to present at the Near East South Asia teacher conference.

Brent devotes many hours to our extra-curricular program. He believes that an education does not end at the four walls of his classroom; therefore, he pours his heart, soul and expertise into the lives of the individuals he is coaching. He regularly goes above and beyond the expectations of the position in order to give his players an opportunity to be successful and learn. It has been a pleasure for me to go and watch his teams as they exemplify hard work, determination, hustle and character. Presently he is coaching the Junior Varsity Boys Soccer and has been an assistant to the Varsity Boys volleyball team but his skills as a coach are not limited to those sports.

He recognizes that balance is important to maintain a healthy lifestyle. He takes the time to keep himself physically fit and encourages others to do so as well. He has organized an AIS running/walking club to help encourage his colleagues to be healthy but also provide a forum for camaraderie. Brent also enjoys spending time travelling, exploring other cultures, and reading. He lives a healthy balanced life.

Simply stated, Brent Van Staalduin makes a positive contribution to a school, a community and to the teaching profession.

Sincerely,

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High School Principal  
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