

## Recommendations for 2006-2007 Seniors

Many of you will want me to write college recommendations on your behalf. The initial procedure you should follow is to simply ask me if I'd be willing to write a recommendation on your behalf. If I agree to write for you, rest assured that I feel I have something positive to say. I send my recommendations directly to the colleges and I require students to fill out (or check off) a confidentiality agreement ensuring the integrity of the recommendation. If you have a question about this, I'd be happy to explain my reasoning fully.

**There is one complication to the process:** I will not be teaching at LHS next year. My wife is finishing her PhD and we are moving to Seattle, Washington over the summer. This will add a layer of burden on your part, but many of you will still want/need me to write on your behalf.

Here is an outline of how the writing process will work:

**1. Ask me to write on your behalf either in person before the end of the school year or via email over the summer or as early in the fall as possible.**

**2. Early next fall, send me some information about you (preferably as a Word attachment to an email).** Here is the information I'll require:

- A tentative list of colleges to which you will be applying, complete with application deadlines.
- A short narrative regarding your goals and reasoning behind the type of schools you are choosing.
- Any other information that might round out my impression of you as a student and as a person. Examples from the past include: one of the "why school X" essays all the colleges require; examples of extracurricular/community service/religious service that is important to the student.

**3. Send me a packet of forms that I'll need to submit with your recommendation.**

This includes:

- Stamped, addressed (with return address too!) envelopes for each recommendation you want me to send.
- Any forms that might be required by the colleges.
- A signed confidentiality agreement (if the colleges admission form does not have one).

Please do not tarry in getting this information to me. If I feel that I will not have adequate time to responsibly contemplate and write a recommendation, I may have to refuse your request. Please do not put me in this situation.

You, your parents, or your guidance counselor might be worried about a teacher not at LHS writing on your behalf. This should not be a major concern. Your recommendation letters won't be signed "Todd Kresser, head barista, Starbucks" but

rather from my new job at a *very* well-respected Seattle area independent school where I'll be teaching.

Of course, the sooner you can get this information to me the better, especially if you plan on applying early action/decision to any schools. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. I can always be reached at [tkresser@gmail.com](mailto:tkresser@gmail.com) or via my cell 617-721-6340.