

December 12, 2012

Jeffrey Shapiro, HD PhD  
Executive Director  
AEALAS Foundation  
25876 The Old Road, #325  
Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Shapiro,

On December 5, 2012 I had the opportunity to visit and tour the Albert Einstein Academy of Letters and Sciences (AEALAS) located in Santa Clarita, California. Let me start by saying how thoroughly impressed I am with both the quality of the program, as well as the quality of the staff working at the school. As an educator, with almost 20 years as a teacher and administrator in schools here in California as well as overseas, I can honestly say that that this is one of the finest schools I have ever seen.

Upon entering the school you get a quick sense that this school is a great place for kids. I had the opportunity to visit a variety of classrooms which spanned multiple grades as well as subjects, and in each case I was impressed with both the quality of the lessons and the students level of engagement. One of the things I appreciated was a focus on the creative arts, foreign languages, music and other electives that are so often the first subjects to get cut in many schools. Many schools are often forced to raise money through PTA groups to fund extra/enrichment programs that are so vital to the development of the whole child.

Science classes were hands on, history classes were acting out the industrial revolution and students have ample opportunities to participate in sports and physical activities. Another wonderful aspect is the culture of respect and the climate that was very evident. Students were supportive of each other and I saw a high level of acceptance of each student as an individual. Each student was encouraged to be their unique self without fear of teasing or ridicule from other students. It definitely had a family appeal. All of this while serving a student body comprised of diverse cultural and socio-economical backgrounds. However, thanks to a flexible dress code, the socio-economical differences had to be pointed out to me and could not be easily discerned, thus furthering the idea of a cohesive student body.

AEALAS truly embraces the idea of educating the whole child and backs it up with high quality, engaging classrooms. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to see what is right in education, and a model for other schools to embrace.

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [smastroianni@casapacifica.org](mailto:smastroianni@casapacifica.org) or at (805) 366-4070.

Sincerely,



Scott Mastroianni, M.Ed.  
Director of Education  
Casa Pacifica

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1722 S. Lewis Road  
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Phone (805) 445-7800  
Fax (805) 987-7237  
[www.casapacifica.org](http://www.casapacifica.org)

975 Flynn Road  
Camarillo, CA 93012

115 S. La Cumbre Lane, Suite 200  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

124 W. Carmen Lane, Ste. J-L  
Santa Maria, CA 93458