

To whom it may concern:

My name is Meryam Siddiqi and I graduated from the American Community School of Abu Dhabi as part of the class of 2024. I had the privilege of having Mr. Andrew Kempe as my IB Higher Level Economics teacher for two years, and it is without a doubt that I can say that Mr. Kempe played a significant role for my development not only as a student, but also as a person preparing for life after high school.

From the moment I joined Mr. Kempe's class, it was evident that he was deeply passionate about economics and equally committed to understanding his students on a personal level. Despite it being his first year at our school, he quickly earned the trust and respect of my peers and me. Unlike many teachers, his first-day introduction was not filled with superficial facts. Instead, he shared captivating stories of his experiences, immediately establishing a classroom environment that became one of the most enriching learning experiences I have had thus far.

Mr. Kempe's affable demeanor and ability to connect with students fostered a classroom atmosphere where everyone felt comfortable and encouraged to be active learners. I never hesitated to ask questions in his class, and he always acted proactively to ensure that we as students never felt out of depth. Additionally, beyond the classroom, Mr. Kempe always made sure that we as students had our voices heard. As a chaperone on a service trip to Tanzania, Mr. Kempe welcomed and facilitated conversations with me and other students where we discussed the cultural sensitivity of visiting developing countries. Instead of talking *at* us like adults often do to teenagers, Mr. Kempe talked *to* us—he used our conversations to encourage us as students to collaborate with and educate our peers before taking the trip. This moment remains significant to me because it made me realize the power of genuine dialogue while also exemplifying his respect for our perspectives and his belief in our ability to contribute meaningfully.

Personally, economics was never something I had considered as a possible course of study in university. However, Mr. Kempe's fervor definitely reflected in my own approach to the class, and I am now an incoming student at the University of Chicago, planning on majoring in Economics. Without Mr. Kempe's teaching, and the experience of being his student, I am not sure that I would've discovered my own passion for the subject.

Given my experience, I wholeheartedly believe that Mr. Kempe would be invaluable to any educational institution. His dedication to his students, passion for teaching, and ability to

create a nurturing and stimulating learning environment are unparalleled. Mr. Kempe has a unique talent for inspiring students and fostering a love for learning that extends beyond the walls of his classroom.

Sincerely,  
Meryam Siddiqi

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [meryamsiddiqi@uchicago.edu](mailto:meryamsiddiqi@uchicago.edu)