George P. Burdell High School

Counselor Letter of Recommendation for Bobby North

Distinctive Qualities

- What sets Bobby apart from his peers is his genuine **empathy**, **resilient work ethic**, and **natural leadership**. Whether mentoring underclassmen within our STEM Magnet Program or organizing campus-wide initiatives, Bobby consistently demonstrates **maturity** beyond his years. He approaches every task with **humility** and **quiet confidence**, earning the **trust** and **respect** of both faculty and students.
- Bobby is also deeply **reflective**. He is the kind of student who **thinks before he speaks** and **listens intently**—traits that are increasingly rare and incredibly valuable. His **self-awareness** and **emotional intelligence** allow him to **connect across differences** and create **inclusive** spaces wherever he goes.

Academic & Intellectual Growth and Trends

- Bobby's academic trajectory has been marked by **steady growth** and **upward momentum**. Of our 25 AP classes offered, he has taken/is scheduled to take the **most demanding** load of **15 AP classes**, is part of our **STEM Magnet program.**
- In addition to his AP classes, Bobby has taken **2** of our **post-AP** Magnet-only courses, including Adv. Scientific Internship, through which he has interned 12 hours a week for 14 weeks at the **Georgia Tech Research Institute** working on biomedical research. His internship supervisor has praised his **collaborative spirit** and willingness to work with **cross-disciplinary teams** to develop solutions to complex problems.
- Our schedule this year prevented Bobby from taking **AP Computer Science A** on campus, but he was **relentless** in his pursuit to grow in his computer science knowledge and is taking the course through Georgia Virtual School this fall. The course will not appear on his transcript until after the completion of the semester. While it is not a core area of interest for him, he knows coding skills will be integral in his studies as he pursues admission at top STEM institutions, and I applaud his willingness to take on the extra work load to **challenge** his knowledge and be as prepared as possible for collegiate-level work.

Areas of Impact

- Bobby has left an **indelible mark** on Burdell High School. He served as president of the **Student Council**, where he launched a **mental health awareness week** that included student-led panels and partnerships with local wellness organizations. As a **varsity cross country captain**, he led the team to its best finish in nearly a decade, all while **mentoring** younger athletes with **patience** and **encouragement**.
- Bobby also co-led a research initiative through our school's STEM Magnet Program focused on **low-cost biomedical devices**. Working with a local university lab mentor, he helped design a prototype for a **wearable sensor to monitor hydration levels** in long-distance runners, combining his interest in athletics with his passion for biomedical engineering. His work was presented at the **Georgia High School STEM Symposium**, where judges commended his team for its **innovative thinking, practical application, and collaborative approach**. This project further solidified his aspiration to pursue biomedical engineering as a career path.

Additional Comments / Extenuating Circumstances

- Bobby's achievements are especially notable given the challenges he has faced. During his sophomore year, his father was diagnosed with a **chronic illness**, shifting significant **responsibilities at home** onto Bobby. Rather than allow this to derail his studies, Bobby responded with **grit, grace, and a deeper sense of purpose**. He became more **focused and intentional**, using his personal experiences to fuel his passion for social advocacy and public health education. The only impact we have seen at school is Bobby's **careful choices** about using his time. For example, he has chosen not to join the honor societies to which he has received invitations as he focuses extra time at home.
- Despite this, he maintained **strong academic performance**, remained **engaged** in extracurriculars, and was often the first to **volunteer** when others needed help. His **resilience** and **sense of responsibility** are among his most inspiring qualities.
- Bobby's teachers have consistently praised his **nuanced** and **persuasive** ability to communicate. His teachers often cite his **insightful contributions**, **balanced perspective**, and **willingness to engage** with complex topics.

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