



**Division Avenue High School
School Counseling Department
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Mark Curtiss, School Counseling Chairperson

Counselors
Lynn Castellano
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To Whom It May Concern:

Gregory (Greg) Ricken has been my intern for the Spring 2018 semester and he has been a wonderful addition to Division Avenue's Guidance Department. Greg immediately demonstrated initiative as he requested to start a few weeks early to immerse himself in the scheduling process from when it began. Since then, he has been eager to learn, inquisitive, professional, friendly and ready to take on tasks. Greg has a warm and welcoming personality. I could tell that the students felt comfortable speaking to him. In his discussions with students, it was apparent that Greg was being empathetic while trying to facilitate a productive conversation.

Greg is willing to work and he does not shy away from a challenge. An example would be when one of the counselors in the department was out sick for two weeks during the scheduling process. Greg took on a very big role in helping with this counselor's caseload. He scheduled many of her students, entered their requests in PowerSchool and he also met with them on an as-needed basis. I continuously monitored Greg and I was impressed by his attention to detail. Greg would ask me questions to acquire more knowledge in order to ensure accuracy.

In addition to the traditional internship experience, Greg chose to get involved with the Student Council at Division Avenue. He attended night activities, including Spirit Night during which he was the head judge! He genuinely enjoyed getting to know the students and the faculty that are involved with extracurricular activities. Greg developed a rapport with many of the advisors because he spent time working on several projects with them.

I would like to further mention that Greg was confident in speaking with parents. Greg participated in many Junior Planning Meetings and he was engaging with the students and their parents. Moreover, once Greg met with students, he would remember their names and the details of the interaction.

I have supervised numerous school counseling students and Greg stands out as the most engrossed, ambitious, conscientious and warm person who has interned with me. I enthusiastically recommend Gregory Ricken for a school counseling position. Please feel free to contact me for any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lynn Castellano".

Lynn Castellano
School Counselor / Student Council Advisor