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## Recommendation for Gabrielle Witkin

It is my pleasure to write this recommendation on the behalf of Ms. Gabrielle Witkin. I came to know Gabby as she was a counseling intern at Friends Select School, in the fall of 2017. As a School Counselor at FSS, I have worked closely with her throughout the 2017-2018 school year on a variety of cases and small groups across all three divisions. Over the course of the school year my experiences with Gabby have highlighted her many capabilities and strengths.

Gabby is a kind-hearted, caring, compassionate individual who possesses the innate qualities needed to be an excellent mental health professional. It quickly became evident to me, through her interactions with our children and her insights at team meetings that Gabby thinks deeply about how her work as a counselor can leave a lasting impact on students. Gabby is perceptive and thinks a step ahead which I believe will make her an excellent counselor.

This year, I have assisted Gabby as she has led small psycho-educational groups for students in Lower, Middle and Upper School. Gabby has taken a thoughtful, intentional and organized approach to planning and running developmentally appropriate sessions. While she takes the time to plan and organize meaningful content prior to a group, she displays the flexibility needed to tweak those plans should it become apparent that the group needs to head in a different direction. I think one of Gabby's most obvious strengths is her ability to hear feedback from all stakeholders and then create a product that works for all parties involved. For example, during one particular group we ran this year, we received comments from the students that the topic was not feeling relevant and the students had questions about the purpose of the group. Gabby, more than any other adult involved, took the time to listen to each student's suggestions, created a survey to gather more information on what the group was looking for, rewrote the lesson for our next group meeting and presented it to the other adults involved for any additional comments. Needless to say, this dedication to providing meaningful service to students not only made the group more engaging, but it created a more cohesive therapeutic environment where adolescents felt heard and understood.

Gabby is a dedicated, passionate mental health professional and I have no doubt she would excel in a school setting. A self-starter who is eager to jump in and receive supervision, I think that Gabby will have a positive impact on any school community. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out at 267-210-5247 or [kamartin0812@gmail.com](mailto:kamartin0812@gmail.com).

*Katelyn S. Martin, M.Ed.*

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