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101 N Street NW

Washington, DC 20001

To Whom It May Concern,

I write this letter to highly recommend an outstanding teacher and educator, Alex Clark, for the NABSE outstanding teacher award

I have never witnessed such a dynamic, devoted, passionate, purpose-driven, goal-oriented teacher who really desires to make a true difference in the lives of all his students. I have the pleasure of working with Coach Clark and have seen firsthand his passion and impact that he has as an educator. He is an outstanding faculty member and has the most impact in the Dunbar school community. I can attest to his impact because he has held many programs, invested countless hours, garnered support from several community partners, gained equipment and resources for the edification of our students and brought our Dunbar community closer in the middle of a global pandemic. Coach Clark seeks to reach and teach the whole child and even their families: the heart, the body and the mind. This is why I strongly recommend Coach Clark.

I met Coach Clark last in our first year at Dunbar. Usually, teachers who are in their first year at a new school wait to start initiatives and programs. However, Coach Clark hit the ground running and has been running this marathon ever since. He came into Dunbar launching fitness campaigns, workshops and seminars. He did not just do this for the students but he also did it for the staff and the families of our students. Last year, I was astonished at how Coach Clark came into Dunbar during his first year and accomplished so much. Many of these programs were for the edification of the entire school community. We started to become better in our minds, bodies and spirits. We



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learned about exercise and nutrition. We started to eat better as a school community. This is all due to the major impact that Coach Clark has in our school community. This is not a small accomplishment. This major accomplishment changed the entire health of our community.

Then, unfortunately, the worst public health crisis came in 2020. This devastating pandemic closed almost every school building in the nation. It also attempted to close off our students from feeling connection and love from the teachers and peers. In most cases, the relationships between teachers and students ceased or were drastically changed due to virtual learning. However, this did not stop Coach Clark. He created, advocated, supported, maintained and promoted probably the most innovative and creative program that will help our students in the city. He is the founder of Prime Ability. He partnered with Dunbar to host weekly bike rides in the middle of the pandemic. It gave so many students a place to see their peers, get great exercise, have an outlet to get out the house and to provide structure in the lives of our students. I was astonished yet again. Many students, families and staff came out weekly to be a part of the bike rides. I came out often to be a part of it. This program is transformative in so many ways. Many of the students have suffered tremendous grief and loss and did not know how to cope. In the pandemic, it left many students feeling disconnected. However, the bike rides gave our students a sense of belongingness and connection. As an Assistant Principal, it was deeper than just a biking program. It was a powerful way to connect with our students.

Many educators might think that it was the building wrapping around the school community to keep everyone together. However, it was really the 4 C's: Commitment, Compassion, Communication and Consistency. Those four important values put into action helped to keep our community together. Coach Clark embodied all of those values. It was not just the weekly bike rides. He had step aerobics classes for the community on Tuesdays, and Saturday workshops that focused on the mind, body and the soul. His level of work made us all stronger. He went out and got the support of the community to donate bikes and the tools needed for the maintenance of the bikes. It



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really brought us back to the concept of the village raising a child. He brought the village together. I am very grateful for him and his leadership.

In closing, I cannot think of a better teacher and leader.. I hardly ever write these types of letters. However, I am definitely inclined and deeply persuaded that Alex Clark should be the teacher of the year for this school year. He has made the Dunbar community and DCPS a more perfect union. Please consider his impact and this recommendation. He is a shining example of going above and beyond the call of duty in probably the most difficult time in education and in our lifetimes.

A Humble Servant,

*Dr. DeMarcus McMillan*

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