



2200 M Avenue | Anacortes, WA 98221 | Phone 360-503-1200 | Fax 360-503-1201 | [www.asd103.org](http://www.asd103.org)

September 16, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for The Foundations for Academic Endeavors (FAE) Summer Academy in Mt. Vernon. This is a well-organized summer program whose mission is to provide empowering educational opportunities for low-income children.

I had the opportunity to tour the program in July 2019 and came away impressed by what I saw. The program uses research-based STEM curricula, provides a mix of learning and extra-curricular activities, and hires individuals who show a deep care for ensuring summer success for the kids in the program.

FAE's existence and success is so important to Skagit County because of the correlation between lower-income students and summer learning loss. Every summer, low-income youth lose two to three months in reading. Summer support makes all the difference.

The results of the program have been impressive. A recent review showed that 97 percent of FAE students did not experience summer learning loss. A real celebration!

In 2019, about 20 Anacortes students benefited from the program. FAE aligns well with our own ASD summer school program called Impact. Impact serves children in grades K-3, while FAE has a much broader focus in serving pre-school through middle school. As a result, we are able to serve K-3 students here in Anacortes and have FAE support children in other grade levels. FAE also provides transportation, which is critical for program success.

In short, I'm a big fan of summer programs that run well, use research-based curricula and help students feel valued and accomplished. FAE is a huge asset for our larger community and definitely worthy of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Wenzel'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'W'.

Dr. Mark Wenzel  
Anacortes School District Superintendent