



## **COUNCIL ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT**

### **COUNCIL ROCK HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH**

2002 ROCK WAY  
HOLLAND, BUCKS CO., PA 18966  
(215) 944-1115 • FAX (215) 944-1140

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*Albert R. Funk*  
*Principal*

October, 2017

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this reference at the request of Brendan Farrell, who is applying for consideration as a recipient of the Bucks County Road Runners Great Strides scholarship for the fall 2019 semester at Bucks County Community College.

I have known Brendan for three years in my capacity as a teacher at Council Rock High School South. I have witnessed Brendan's growth and maturity in both the academic and personal arenas. He is an industrious young man who invests in his education and puts forth the effort and time necessary to succeed. Throughout his high school career, he approached personal learning differences with an optimistic attitude, never hesitating to avail himself of the supports available as he developed the necessary acuity to succeed both independently and academically. His regular attendance, strong work completion and ability to assume leadership in cooperative activities makes him a valued, well respected member of his classes. Brendan is able to balance his academic responsibilities with his participation as a four year member of the Council Rock High School South track team. In addition, he works 12 – 15 hours at a local assisted living facility serving residents meals.

Notwithstanding the above mentioned plaudits, what truly sets Brendan apart is the manner in which he lives his life, quietly conveying his sense of integrity and personal moral code. Last spring, a classmate with whom Brendan was friends was a casualty to suicide. As the class met the following day, students and staff alike were on edge, tears were flowing and everyone was tense. Brendan voluntarily initiated the group discussion, unafraid to share his thoughts about his friend and the suicide, communicating his perspective on the situation in such a mature and perceptive manner that it enabled others to open up and share their feelings. He was able to help tilt the tone in the class from utter disbelief and pain to acceptance and celebration of the life of the friend lost. Brendan's composure and grace on that sad day is indicative of the manner in which he conducts himself on a daily basis. He is a young man his peers should pause to emulate and is worthy of your scholarship. If any additional information is needed, I can be contacted at [mturdo@crd.org](mailto:mturdo@crd.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria A. Turdo". The ink is black and the signature is fluid and legible.

Maria A. Turdo  
Council Rock School District  
Holland, PA