

RECOMMENDATION FOR LIAM DERMADY

January 29, 2013

I have known Liam Dermady for just about four years, as one of his art teachers and as his school advisor. Liam is a remarkable young man who easily earns the respect of his peers and teachers alike for his work ethic, his sense of responsibility, his generally open and kind disposition, and especially for his considerable intellectual and creative prowess. I am delighted to recommend this very deserving young man. The first words that come to mind when I think about Liam include: pilot in training, exacting, resourceful, spatially gifted, intelligent, articulate, dedicated, scholar, multi-talented, holistic, respectful, receptive, humble, ambitious, tenacious, warm, genuine, model individual and leader to name just a few obvious traits.



The
Cambridge
School
of Weston

I will never forget my first impression of Liam. On the second day of class he brought in his first homework assignment early and nearly complete—a two-week homework assignment in which students had to develop a full-range tonal rendering using a photograph as a resource—and Liam's airplane drawing was exceptionally well-developed, by far, more than any of his peers in both sections of my class. His work stood out for its precision, its tonality, its exquisite crafting, and for his impeccable ability to visualize form in perspectival space. When I asked him about his drawing, Liam said with a

big smile, *"I love airplanes—I can't get enough of them"* and then he noted *"it is a compulsion of mine to draw them."* Liam's extraordinary drawing and his response to my initial inquiry are forever engrained in my memory. His airplane rendering looked photographic, at a level I would associate with a professional who had been working decades to achieve such refinement. To put a finer point on this, Liam enrolled in my Drawing II class—an upperclassman course—during his freshman year and it was obvious to me from the first week that he was an unusually gifted and multi-talented individual. Not only did he keep up with the rigor of upperclassman course concepts and challenges, his work rose far above his peers in terms of quality and expertise. Moreover, Liam's work had a distinguished imagery, when most high school students rarely find such personal identification—typically that doesn't happen until the late junior or senior year. Liam stood out in so many ways!

Liam's personal imagery has involved flying machines for as long as I have known him. He lives, thinks and constantly visualizes planes and space. No surprise that he is excellent at math, geometry and linear perspective. Any hint of air travel and Liam is all body, ears and eyes. Liam's knowledge of airplane history, and flight in general, is a well-known and highly regarded quantity here at school. Moreover, Liam started the aviation club, which has been a wonderful addition to the school for a lot of reasons. Importantly, Liam's leadership, openness and generosity have made it so that upper and lower classman co-mingle without any rivalry. Getting his pilot's license seems to be an inevitability for Liam—of course he would love for that to be any time soon—but of course funding has been a hardship for him and his family.

When Liam told me of his interest in applying to the EAA Chapter 106 Student Scholarship I jumped for joy! This would be such a great opportunity for Liam! He is deserving on so many levels! He is so very qualified and he would certainly excel if offered the scholarship. In my opinion, Liam has "The Right Stuff."

In my twenty-seven years of teaching, rarely have I come upon an individual as well-rounded, as ambitious, as scholastic and as gifted. Without reservation, I offer Liam my highest recommendation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance regarding Liam's application.

Sincerely,

Todd Bartel
Art Faculty
Gallery Director
Thompson Gallery

The EAA106 Scholarship Committee has blanked out contact and signature information from this Letter of Recommendation being posted about our winner, Liam Dermady