

## REFERENCE FOR DAVID DURAN

8 September 2014

David worked with our family for four years, from 2010 to 2014, teaching and tutoring our two children from introductory algebra through calculus BC, as well as robotics. David worked with them in two capacities: first as an enrichment tutor, and second as their primary teacher. Ultimately, David wrote and taught their curricula for which they received 'home schooling' credit from their regular high school.

David's skills include:

- A thorough knowledge of middle school and high school mathematics;
- A friendly manner for presenting these concepts;
- A creative approach to showing how mathematics is 'all around us', incorporating real-world problem solving exercises into the curriculum at every level of study;
- Patience, encouragement, and an extremely positive attitude with kids regardless of their rate of progress and ability to grasp the current material.

As a professional, David has a strong background in applied mathematics and physics. He brings this same passion to his work with students. Thanks to his work with them, our children have a vision of how they can and will work with mathematics in their future careers, whatever these will be. David has successfully transmitted his love for mathematics to them; they both see math as one of their favorite subjects, and both will continue their math studies at the college level.

David's teaching style is focused on helping the students learn to think through the problem. He does not teach to the test or guide them to the answer. Rather, he is keen to give them the tools to solve the problem on their own, showing them how to reason through the concepts and independently arrive at the solution.

David also showed grace and poise in dealing with our children's late assignments and temporary lapses in focus and concentration. His patience and consistent positive manner gave them the space they needed to work through their scheduling and motivation challenges. This allowed the kids to rediscover their enthusiasm and organizational skills, and then to get back on track in their own time, unquestionably more quickly and more effectively than if David had been browbeating them.

Thanks to David's talents and approach, our kids now have a fundamental love of mathematics. They see how math plays a role in both daily and advanced aspects of their lives. We are truly grateful for his contributions to their education and development. We are very grateful that David has played a role in our children's education and development.

Michal Ruder  
Denver, Colorado