

# ST. MARK'S SCHOOL OF TEXAS

— 1906 —

*Recommendation for Benjamin Adams '24  
February 15, 2024*

Texas High School Journalist of the Year  
Texas Association of Journalism Educators

To Whom It May Concern:

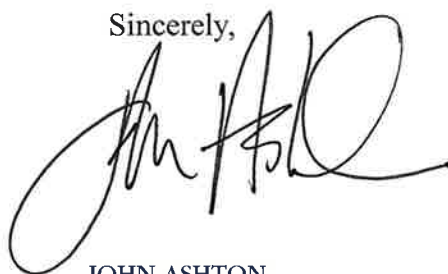
It is a pleasure to write in support of Ben Adams as he is being considered for the Journalist of the Year Award. Having known Ben well for the past three years both as his 10<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher and his Head of Upper School, I have watched Ben's passion and commitment for journalism expand and deepen.

From the time he wrote his first essays in my English class, Ben's passion for telling stories and using language to convey specific experiences was evident as was his talent and skill. Over the three years since our time together in class, I have watched Ben's capacity for telling a story improve to a level of sophistication that focuses on getting the story right and journalistic integrity. Ben's demonstrated integrity in journalism aligns with Ben's character. In everything that Ben does on campus and with every interaction I've witnessed, Ben demonstrates compassion, empathy, honesty, and sensitivity. Whether as a leader in the journalism suite, a member of the Senior class, or a varsity soccer player, Ben reflects the high standard we hope for all students.

As a leader on campus, Ben's work last spring, summer, and fall contributed greatly to the development, launch, and oversight of the School's first-ever online newspaper *The ReMarker*. And under Ben's leadership, the launch was successful and the stewardship throughout the school year has been tremendous; in fact, it has felt seamless. While I am certain that much work has been required to launch and maintain this online publication, Ben has never wavered once, and he has the full trust of Senior Administrators on campus to handle important issues with the highest degree of discretion and professionalism. Ben is mature beyond his years, and he will continue to make significant contributions in journalism beyond St. Mark's.

I am grateful for your consideration of Ben Adams. He represents the best of the virtues of journalism and the highest of character traits that we hope for in young men. Ben would be a wonderful representative of this distinguished honor. We here at St. Mark's have watched Ben mature into the wonderful young man he is today, and we are incredibly proud of him and his many accomplishments on behalf of the School.

Sincerely,



JOHN ASHTON  
*Associate Headmaster*