

Los Gatos High School
20 High School Court
Los Gatos, California 95030



*Honesty of Purpose
Intensity of Effort*

*Nationally Recognized
for Excellence*

February 11, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am extremely pleased and honored to write a letter of commendation for Country House Kitchen Company, a truly excellent food service business that we have employed at Los Gatos High School since May 2019. As a top California public high school serving over 2100 students, we have struggled for well over two decades with our food service program because we were not providing a decent quality of food, nor were we serving many students because the food was not appetizing. Our families and staff members had expressed over many years a wish for more nutritious and appetizing food options, especially given the fact that our district has a history of excellence and is currently rated the highest in the state. We are known for our state-of-the-art curriculum and innovative programming. Regrettably, however, our cafeteria had been, to put it mildly, a mediocre one that produced mostly processed, pre-cooked foods. What we had been desiring is something that reflects our community values and that is congruent with the quality of the educational services we provide in all other areas: delicious, nutritious meals that would be cooked on site using local produce.

We have been extremely fortunate to have had such an outstanding company as Country House Kitchen be willing to visit our school to assess the operations of our food service program and identify a plan to improve it. Not only did Country House provide an analysis last spring of what our food program was missing and what it needed, but Country House also committed to launching and implementing a complete overhaul of our cafeteria service program--and succeeded beyond expectations in their commitment to us. Since last spring Los Gatos High School, in a relatively short period of time, has dramatically improved the quality and quantity of food we provide daily to students and staff in the school, and this incredible feat is due to the contract we have had with Country House Kitchen.

Paul Boundas of Country House has been instrumental in consulting with our district every step of the way and training all of our staff to eliminate serving processed food and cook delicious recipes that our students love. Now our cafeteria staff makes fresh, wholesome items from scratch, using local, natural ingredients and cooking fresh items daily. Each week our kitchen staff integrates new and innovative items, enhancing the ongoing appeal for students and staff. Our costs to make food have decreased significantly while our profits have increased greatly. Additionally, we have been able to hire current students through our Work Experience program to work in the cafeteria, doing tasks including food preparation, dishwashing, and point of sale work. We also have been able to have our cafeteria staff augment their hours of work, which they had been seeking, due to the increase in sales, bringing more revenue to the school district. We are soon to launch an additional serving station on our campus since the current stations are incurring long lines, due to the popularity amongst the student body. Also, our kitchen staff is now catering food for our district in-service days, which reduces catering costs as in past years we have outsourced the catering to companies that charge high prices.

There are so many benefits to what Country House Kitchen has put in place in such a short period of time at LGHS. It's been quite exciting to witness the transformation first hand. There is no way possible that we could have made this radical improvement in our food service program without the absolutely outstanding work and innovation that Country House has provided our school. Our district's governing board has unanimously approved to extend our contract with Country House, having been extremely pleased with the evolution occurring at LGHS and is strongly requesting that the program improvements they have seen at our school would be able to be extended to the other high school in our district. It is without question that such a possibility could only occur with the assistance of Country House. I cannot say enough positive words about this spectacular company and what has happened to our school with their help. I highly recommend Country House Kitchen Company to any school or district seeking to improve their food service program--I am confident you will be satisfied with their work as what they can do is truly special, unique, and transformative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristina Grasty". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Kristina Grasty
Principal