

April, 8 2022

To Whom It May Concern.

Please accept this as a letter of recognition for the efforts of Shira and Gilad Sommer in their roles as workshop leaders for New Acropolis Chicago. For the past three years, ninth-grade students at Global Citizenship Experience (GCE) Lab School in Chicago have enriched their studies of philosophy through dialogue with Gilad and Shira, and with exposure to the curriculum of New Acropolis.

GCE is founded on a pedagogical model that stresses inquiry and project based learning, along with real-world “field experiences,” where students leave the school building to experience their learning in different contexts in and around Chicago. As a teacher within this model, I have often struggled to find ways to connect the study of philosophy to the real-world, but New Acropolis has made these connections real and brought them to life for my students.

Gilad and Shira have a talent for asking provocative questions that encourage students to participate in ways that are thoughtful and engaged. They are comfortable responding in the moment to student ideas, in the process respecting students’ thought processes and connecting student ideas to the major figures of western and eastern philosophical systems.

GCE plans to continue our relationship with New Acropolis on the strength of the foundations Shira and Gilad have built with our students. I offer them my unqualified recommendation and am grateful to know them.

Brent Mix
Humanities Teacher, Director of Curricular Partnerships