



COMMUNITY ACADEMY of PHILADELPHIA

A PENNSYLVANIA CHARTER SCHOOL

UPPER SCHOOL

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September 8, 2008

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek,

Thank you for your generosity. The three days of canoeing were the best. The crew and I had each named the boats. On the first day, even though we didn't know how to maneuver, we had a lot of fun because we were everywhere. We went the opposite directions; besides, we were glad to be without our backpacks for a while. We did a couple of races along the way that made it really fun. We also went down many rapids, which was my favorite part. During the three days, I learned how to paddle correctly and how to keep the canoe right-side-up... which is quite important.

While on course I learned to work well with others. I'm usually an independent individual to typically works well alone. This was a big step outside my comfort zone. Fortunately, it worked well and I got along with everyone.

I learned to use a compass on a topographic map. This skill was very useful to learn because without it we could have spent hours walking around. Lucky for us, we always seemed to be on the right path. This learned skill makes me confident that if I am ever lost, I will be able to find my way back to people.

The most important thing that I learned was that I was capable of completing such a demanding course. I went through diverse weather conditions. I also hiked for long periods of time and learned the art of brush pushing. Overall, this experience was difficult, but rewarding and fun. Thank you for the fantastic opportunity you have given me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Manuel Martinez".

Manuel Martinez, 10th grade