To: The Office of Admissions and Dean of Students:  **DATE GOES HERE**

Re: **Award of** **Graduation Diploma – College Credits**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please accept this letter as certification that **NAME OF STUDENT** has successfully completed all of the educational and co-curricular requirements for graduation from **NAME OF UKRAINIAN SCHOOL**. The above named student, in fact, graduated and received a Graduation Diploma in May **YEAR**.

The **NAME OF UKRAINIAN SCHOOL** operates under the auspices of the Educational Council of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. The Educational Council is the central organ of the network of over 40 Ukrainian Saturday Schools throughout the U.S.A. It provides curriculum direction, recommends textbooks, sets graduation standards, and conducts matriculation testing for the schools under its jurisdiction. It also provides qualification requirements and training for the faculties of its member schools.

The **NAME OF UKRAINIAN SCHOOL** maintains a Pre-Kindergarten through 12th curriculum of ethnic studies in the Ukrainian Language, Literature, History, Geography and Culture. All instruction is in Ukrainian.

The Ukrainian language is taught from Pre-K through the twelfth grade. The focus of instruction is on all the language skills: listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. Instruction in grammar- including phonetics, morphology and syntax- is an integral part of the curriculum.

Literature is taught in grades eight through twelve. The program, which includes the teaching of both poetry and prose, seeks to acquaint the students with major literary works, beginning with the pre-historic oral tradition and continuing through the 21st century.

History, taught in grades five though twelve, covers the Kyivan Rus’ era, the Cossack period and modern history (including the events of the Orange Revolution).

Geography is studied in grades seven through twelve. The topics covered are topography, climate, water systems, natural resources, industry and commerce, flora and fauna, population demographics, political administrative regions and ecology.

Culture is covered in grades eight through twelve. Students are exposed to various forms of folk art as well as theater, music, dance, architecture, fine arts – including painting, sculpture and iconography.

For a more detailed description of our curriculum for Grades 9 through 12, please see the reverse side.

Upon completion of the program, the students undergo rigorous, comprehensive written and oral exams in each of the above subjects. The written exams are comparable in form, substance, and level of difficulty to the New York State Regent’s Exam in language and to the A.P. Exams for the other subjects. They are prepared and administered nationally by the Education Council. The oral exams are taken before a Board of Examiners appointed by the same body. Only those students who successfully complete the final examinations (equivalent to the international standard *Matura* or *Abitur*) receive a Graduation Diploma.

Sincerely,

**NAME OF DIRECTOR**,

**NAME OF UKRAINIAN SCHOOL**

**Curriculum for Grades 9-12**

The study of the **Language** itself is broken down as follows:

* Phonetics, the rules of – consonants and vowels, changes in sounds as a result of declensions/conjugations, syllabication.
* Morphology – including parts of speech, gender and declensions of nouns and pronouns, conjugation and aspect of verbs; comparatives and superlatives of adjectives and adverbs.
* Syntax – the parts of words (prefixes, roots, suffixes); declarative, interrogative, and imperative sentences; primary and secondary parts of sentences; simple, compound, and complex sentences.

These are just some of the complexities of the Ukrainian language that are studied in detail.

In **Literature,** students are thoroughly exposed to Ukraine’s rich literary heritage:

* From the Kyivan Rus’ period, the students read and analyze such works as “The Lay of Ihor’s Campaign”, “The Primary Chronicle”, Metropolitan Ilarion’s “Sermon on Law and Grace”, and Prince Volodymyr Monomakh’s “Testament.” Most readings are in Ukrainian translations of the Old Church Slavonic.
* From the 16 - 17th centuries, students learn about oral literature and songs (dumy) of traveling bards; the rise of religious themes in theatre.
* Romanticism in 19th century Ukraine includes: the poetry of Ukraine’s greatest poet, Taras Shevchenko, the prose of Ivan Franko, and the poetry and drama of Lesia Ukrainka. Many other authors are studied as well; among them are Ivan Kotlyarevsky, Markian Shashkevich, Marko Vovchok, Olha Kobylyanska, Mykhailo Kotsiubynskyj, and Ivan Nechuj-Levytskyj. Ukraine’s literature is rich in folklore, both pre- and post Christianity, as well as in historic portrayals of Ukraine’s struggles for freedom from its oppressors. These are reflected in these authors’ works.
* The 20th century explores the writings of Ukrainians subject to Soviet oppression including those of the dissident-poets of the 1960’s.

Readings are in the original Ukrainian.

**History** course requirements include regular written assignments, class participation, and examinations. The curriculum is divided as follows:

* The medieval Kyivan Rus’ period (from pre-historic through the year 1340)
* Ukraine under Poland, the creation of the Hetmanate or Cossack State, and the rising threat to Ukraine from the Russian Empire (14th - 18th centuries)
* Ukraine under two Empires: Russia and Austria-Hungary (19th century)
* The 20th century – from a brief, but heroic period of independence in 1918 - 1919 through 70 years of domination by Poland and the Soviet Union - this includes the struggle against Nazism in WWII and a study of the years of Ukrainians as Displaced Persons in the aftermath of WWII

The courses culminate with the events of the last 18 years resulting in Ukraine’s independence in August 1991. Certain issues are given special consideration. These include: the Great Famine - Genocide of 1932-1933, World War II, the recent events of the Orange Revolution, and current politics in Ukraine.

**Geography** – in addition to the study of climate, topography, natural resources, industry and commerce, fauna and flora, demographics, etc., students study the history of the Ukrainian diaspora – emigration from the end of the 19th century through the present, and their contributions in the countries of settlement. The use and reading of maps are integral to the program. Owing to Ukraine’s independence, new topics are now being introduced into the program. These include: the aftermath of the Chornobyl nuclear disaster, economic and ecological problems in modern Ukraine, reasons for recent emigration from Ukraine, etc.

**Culture** classes include extensive discussions on ethnicity and folklore, music/ethnomusicology, theatre, architecture, and the fine arts including iconography. Christianity and its Byzantine origins have played a key role throughout Ukraine’s history and this impact on history, literature, and culture is examined. Students participate in school sponsored cultural concerts, events and fieldtrips.