



NEEDHAM HIGH SCHOOL

A Caring Community Striving for Personal Growth
and Academic Excellence

Needham High School Counseling Department
CEEB # 221485

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School Counselors
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Katrina Martyn
Shannon Mastropalo
I'Esha Thomas
Renee Vasquez
Mary Jane Walker
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Teacher Recommendation

Please see the transcript for cumulative GPA, and the school profile for grading & other information

(student name)

Year of Graduation: 2024

Curriculum Overview & Student's Experience with the Curriculum

- Sam was a student in my AP Biology course during the 2014-2015 academic year. This rigorous course is the equivalent of a first year college course; it moves at a rapid pace and requires that students do meaningful daily work in order to stay caught up. While a great deal of content is covered, memorization of facts alone does not ensure success. Rather, students must regularly apply their knowledge to novel situations.
- Sam consistently articulated biological concepts in an accurate, concise manner. Over the course of the year, he also improved greatly in his ability to make sense of application-based questions. For many students, it was difficult to look at a novel scenario and apply the appropriate content, but Sam was almost always successful in doing so.

Academic Characteristics

- Sam brought a consistent diligence to his work in AP Biology. He was not the loudest kid in the room, but he was always focused. He was a steady presence in the classroom, one that could be counted on to take every task seriously.
- Sam takes responsibility for his own learning and his own actions. On one occasion, he did not have time to adequately prepare for a test, and his score reflected it. He arranged to talk with me outside of class, and explained the situation. He didn't ask for special treatment or the chance to redo the work; rather, he simply wanted me to know why his performance varied from his norm. I was impressed by the maturity of his response to the setback. He seemed to learn from the experience as well; on all future assessments, he paced himself properly and performed well.

Personal Qualities

- Sam is a humble kid, and does not draw attention to himself or his accomplishments. In a competitive group of peers, he quietly took care of his own business, and did not bother himself with comparisons to others.
- Sam has a subtle but delightful sense of humor, and an inherent knowledge of when humor is appropriate. Students often get caught up in the stress of day-to-day life in a rigorous academic environment, and Sam's humorous observations were often just what everyone needed to take the edge off. He takes his work seriously, but doesn't seem to take himself too seriously.

Recommendation

Sam is a diligent student and thoughtful classmate, and I know he is ready for the challenge of a university classroom. I am confident he will be a **fabulous student and friend**, and I recommend him without reservation.

