



# The Taft School

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CEEB Code: 070880

Report Card 2021-2022 Semester 1

## Reyes, Elijah Ismael (Eli) 9/LM '25

Date of Birth: 01/05/2007 Advisor: Padgett, Sean Dean: Benedict, Amanda

Semester 1:	MID	PRE	EXM	SEM	Teacher(s)
EN120.4 LM English	93 M/M		96	94 M/M	Cary, Brianne
MA230.2 Honors Geometry	99 M/M		98	98 M/M	Rane, Shreyas
HI140.1 World History I: Foundations	92 M/M		92	91 M/E	Farrar, Colin
SP150.1 Accelerated Spanish I	96 M/M		93	97 M/M	Torre, Justin
PH120.7 Accelerated Physics	96 M/M		90	95 E/E	Conroy, Kevin
AM530.1 Jazz Workshop	95 M/M			97 M/M	Thompson, Thomas
Average:	95.2	95.2		95.3	

Semester 2:	MID	SEM	Teacher(s)
EN120.4 LM English			Cary, Brianne
MA230.2 Honors Geometry			Rane, Shreyas
HI140.1 World History I: Foundations			Farrar, Colin
SP150.1 Accelerated Spanish I			Torre, Justin
PH120.7 Accelerated Physics			Conroy, Kevin
AM530.1 Jazz Workshop			Thompson, Thomas
Average:			

Course Averages:	MID 1	SEM 1	MID 2	SEM 2
EN120 LM English	88.6	88.9		
MA230 Honors Geometry	92.3	93.3		
HI140 World History I: Foundations	88.7	88.6		
SP150 Accelerated Spanish I	88.1	89.9		
PH120 Accelerated Physics	88.2	87.9		
AM530 Jazz Workshop	97.3	98.8		

### Habits

#### Achievement Grades

93-100 - High Honors  
90-92 - Honors  
60 and Above - Credit  
59 and Below - Failure

#### Planning and Preparation

E – Exceeds Expectations  
M – Meets Expectations  
A – Approaches Expectations  
N – Needs Attention  
D – Demands Attention

#### Engagement and Scholarship

E – Exceeds Expectations  
M – Meets Expectations  
A – Approaches Expectations  
N – Needs Attention  
D – Demands Attention

#### Abbreviations

MID - Midterm Grade  
PRE - Pre-Exam Grade  
EXM - Exam Grade  
SEM1 - Semester 1 Grade  
SEM2 - Semester 2 Grade

# **Reyes, Elijah Ismael (Eli) '25 - Semester 1 - 2021-2022**

## **Dean's Letter - Benedict, Amanda**

The Class of 2025 began their Taft career during an incredible time in the history of the Taft School. In addition to the normal challenges of beginning boarding school life, this Class entered Taft with some of the most varied experiences in Taft's history. Some students completed in-person learning last year, others were completely remote and had not entered a classroom for over a year. What remains consistent is that Eli joined a deep pool of talented, diverse students who were galvanized by the unique experience of coming together to create a Taft community. Eli had to make new friends and recalibrate his academic habits to the rigors and challenges of Taft. To ensure success, we encourage Lower Mids to engage in the community, widen their peer group, connect to the faculty who are resources for them, and embrace the opportunities that lead to an enriching experience. Eli has had a fantastic beginning at Taft this fall.

Despite pandemic protocols and a challenging flu epidemic that hit the campus during exam week, we successfully completed the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year. Eli should feel proud of his work this term. Eli's advisor, Mr. Padgett, has written a comprehensive letter detailing Eli's experiences outside the classroom this semester. It is my role as his class dean to analyze his academic performance. Often, the most critical transition for Lower Mid students is adapting to the academic expectations and rigor of Taft courses.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances at the end of the semester which resulted in a high number of students leaving school early, the Lower Mid class average of 90.1 is based on the class's pre-exam grades. Eli finishes the semester with an impressive 95.3 average. At the end of the semester, Eli was both meeting and exceeding expectations on the academic habits rubric. I encourage him to review his teachers' comments carefully, as they will provide not only insight into the ways he can improve next semester but also an affirmation of the habits and qualities that helped him achieve success. Ms. Cary writes that Eli has done a great job in English. He participates and writes well. Mr. Farrar also writes that Eli has done a great job in History. Mr. Torre writes that Eli built on his strong foundation in Spanish and he applauds Eli's efforts to improve in all areas of Spanish. Mr. Conroy applauds Eli's fastidious work in Physics. Mr. Rane writes that Eli is doing a fantastic job in Geometry. Mr. Thompson calls Eli's work in Jazz Workshop prepared and focused. Overall, it is clear that Eli employs an effective approach to his courses at Taft. The consensus is that Eli is a fantastic, meticulous student who has impressed all of his teachers. I remind Eli that expectations increase in the winter term, so strong study habits and effective time management skills will be even more important as the year progresses.

To echo Mr. Padgett's insightful advisor letter, Eli was slow to open up this fall, but now that he is more comfortable and sees adults as allies, he has quickly engaged with all aspects of life at Taft. Eli had a rough start with his roommate. They both had to learn how to communicate their needs in the room and compromise in order to live harmoniously. Eli has high expectations for a tidy living environment, and he had to figure out how to communicate those expectations while also being respectful and understanding of his roommate. These are important communication skills that Eli is learning, and I'm happy to hear that the room is becoming a more comfortable place for both roommates. Overall, Eli has made a solid transition to Taft this fall, and I congratulate him on a strong start. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. I hope that you have a wonderful, happy new year!

# **Reyes, Elijah Ismael (Eli) '25 - Semester 1 - 2021-2022**

## **Advisor Letter - Padgett, Sean**

A student's first semester at a boarding school is often a complex set of opportunities for growth. New responsibilities, new freedoms, a longer school week, compulsory after school activities/athletics, and new and different social situations require ever evolving flexibility and maturity to navigate. Eli has handled these challenges with aplomb.

Eli was initially somewhat reserved, and I was concerned that it might prove difficult to coax him out of his shell. Any worries I had faded the day his helmet arrived for Football. He sought me out and we had a long conversation about how glad he was that he could finally fully participate. Eli seems to be quiet until he knows he belongs and understands how to be a part of the group or activity he has joined. Once he achieves that level of comfort, Eli is effusive and displays an incredible sense of humor.

Eli has made friends with some excellent folks on campus, and is still engaging with the hard work of negotiating the sometimes difficult world of dorm life. He has been increasingly proactive in chatting with me about his questions and concerns, and I hope he will continue to do so as we enter our second semester.

Academically, Eli is highly driven, and that drive has been rewarded with excellent grades and academic habits marks throughout his first semester. He has sought me out on a number of occasions to ask questions about finding success in classes, but thus far has needed reassurance far more often than he has needed actual advice. I am very glad he has found that level of comfort, and that he will likely come to me when and if any real issues do arise.

I have had the pleasure of being one of Eli's coaches for wrestling this season. The same drive that leads to his academic success is also evident in his approach to physical endeavors. During conditioning, he can be relied on to push to his fullest, and he has seen increases in both strength and endurance as a result. He was initially somewhat hesitant when learning to do some of the more unfamiliar movements inherent to wrestling, but once he started to become comfortable applying some of his hard-earned strength, moves began to come more naturally. I have no doubt that, if Eli continues to apply himself in this venue, in the same manner, he does everywhere else in his life, that he will find similar success.

It has been a tremendous pleasure to have Eli in my advisory group, and I look forward to seeing all that he will accomplish as he continues his Taft career.

## **Reyes, Elijah Ismael (Eli) '25 - Semester 1 - 2021-2022**

### **LM English - Cary, Brianne**

Elijah, you've been a motivated and hard-working student this term. You possess a cool confidence and humor that greatly contribute to making our classroom community a comfortable environment to share ideas with friends. You possess some sophisticated writing skills and often create sentences with advanced syntax and diction. Your answers on tests are often thoughtful and use fantastic specific examples and detail. Your vocabulary is also extraordinary and continues to impress me. I was quite pleased that you wanted to meet with me after your short story exam and discuss ways in which you could improve your grade. You listened intently and were able to apply my suggestions in your revisions. Nice job! In terms of class participation, I am very happy with your level of comfort, although I would encourage you to share your ideas even more in large group discussions. Overall, you have stepped up to the challenges of the work-load and have met my expectations consistently. Great job so far! Have a restful break and I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

### **Honors Geometry - Rane, Shreyas**

Elijah, it has been a semester to be proud of. The fall semester has been far from easy for all. Yet, you have conquered the difficulties that I threw at you through the test and quizzes. It was a delight to have you in class and be a witness to the hard work you put in throughout the semester. If you keep up the hard work, I can assure you that you are going to surprise yourself in the upcoming semester and approach a perfect score. My advice to tackle the future semester is that you regularly spend at least some time during the day, solving math problems. Keep close attention to the details, as oftentimes, the simplest of the problems is where we lose points. You will notice your grade improve drastically if you apply these basic principles. At the same time, please do not hesitate to reach out for extra help. I hope that we continue the momentum into the next semester and for that, I wish you all the best.

### **World History I: Foundations - Farrar, Colin**

Eli, congratulations on an impressive first semester in "World History I: Foundations." Your academic habits have served you well. You prepare diligently for class, collaborate with your peers, and provide strong leadership during class discussions. You approach the writing assignments with genuine curiosity and a mature penchant for developing your own, original arguments. Your grade of 92 on the final exam is well deserved. I especially like your analysis of the Israelites covenant with Yahweh, an example of a shared fiction that helped enable flexible cooperation and social cohesion in this civilization. More broadly, your consistent performance on all five parts of the exam showcases your ability to craft interesting arguments and support them with close-analysis of historical evidence. For next semester, my single, biggest suggestion - and you will recognize this from my comments on your Rome outline and your Rome-China essay - is that you endeavor to write theses and paragraph assertions that answer the question as directly and explicitly as possible. You can be creative in how you answer the question, but you cannot choose to answer a different question. Check these sentences after you finish the outline, and again before you submit the essay. I look forward to your continued growth and success this winter as we study empires in the Americas, the Islamic World, and Africa. Have a restful vacation, and happy holidays to you and your family!

### **Accelerated Spanish I - Torre, Justin**

Jah, congratulations on an excellent first semester of Spanish at Taft. You earned a 93 on the midterm exam, and finished the semester with a 97 average. Despite having a strong background in the language, I thought that you improved your fluency and speaking over the course of the semester. You took a little while to get comfortable with the pace and nature of the class, but when that happened I could always count on you to be a willing participant. There were times when we covered basic ideas like greetings and goodbyes, numbers, and basic sentence structures when you seemed to really combine your existing knowledge with the rules and concepts we went over. It was great to see you put those things together and understand not just what it was you needed to say, but why. Forming some concrete systems and understanding rules of the language truly paid off. You quickly picked up variations in vocabulary and structures that you had not been familiar with, and you always asked great questions. Your preparation for assessments was excellent, and I look forward to seeing you use the skills you picked up this semester as we move into more complex grammar and vocabulary the rest of the school year. Have a great holiday at home with your family, and I look forward to seeing you back on campus in January. ¡Feliz vacaciones!

## **Accelerated Physics - Conroy, Kevin**

Elijah, it would be hard to deny the impressive work you've done this semester and your skills as a physics student. You have truly shined in all aspects of this course, bringing curious energy from day one and every day since. Your genuine presence has been critical in developing an open, welcoming classroom culture. You have a willingness to work with anyone during group work, and your thorough lab reports are a testament to your thoughtful approach to experiments. Your assignments and notes are detailed, and your organization is further evident in the fact that you haven't missed a single assignment all fall. You attack every new type of problem presented with rigor, and you apply your kinematics equations skills to new physical situations with ease. After occasionally struggling to stay on task in class, I believe you've grown and have struck the tricky balance of focus and fun. When we selected areas of growth halfway through the fall, you decided to focus on your test-taking skills (coming off of an assessment that didn't reflect your fantastic understanding). Since then, you've done well in not only checking over your work but also rereading the question at hand. Continue to dive deep into concepts, be curious, and embrace that growth mindset. Elijah, I have immensely enjoyed getting to know you in the classroom, in the dorm, and now on the wrestling mat. I know you know this, but you should be truly proud of this semester. I look forward to round two!

## **Jazz Workshop - Thompson, Thomas**

Eli, this is such a thoughtful self-evaluation. You have done great work getting acclimated to the horn and not let music literacy, or other shortcomings, limit you in terms of performing. You have always been prepared and focused in rehearsals and performances, you definitely work hard to overcome the reading aspects of the class, and you ended the semester sounding wonderful on Rudolph, Here Comes Santa Claus, and the other tunes we have learned and performed this term. Keep up the great work! In addition to the traditional and modern brass band music, we will also learn transcriptions from a number of alto players next semester, Charlie Parker, Cannonball Adderley, and Donald Harrison to name a few. Thank you for all of your hard work and have a terrific vacation.