

Owen Payton
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Dear Admissions Committee,

I am pleased to recommend Krish Arora, a rising ninth grader who completed an intensive, self-directed Algebra II summer program under my guidance. The curriculum was intentionally more rigorous and open-ended than a standard Algebra II course. My approach emphasized developing a higher-mathematical perspective on core algebraic ideas. For example, beyond routine factoring, we examined polynomials over different fields ($\mathbb{R}[x]$, $\mathbb{C}[x]$) and discussed how foundational number-theoretic results for integers—such as the division algorithm—extend to polynomials.

Krish was assessed on both proof-based and computational problems, with many drawn from competitions such as the AMC 10/12 and HMMT. He consistently absorbed new concepts quickly, connected them to prior knowledge, and asked original, incisive follow-up questions—clear indicators of mathematical talent and curiosity.

Based on his performance, I am confident that, after an introductory course in proofs, Krish could hold his own in upper-division undergraduate courses such as number theory or linear algebra. He has demonstrated complete command of all thirteen chapters of *Algebra and Trigonometry: Structure and Method, Book 2*.

I strongly recommend Krish for admission. Please feel free to contact me at the email above if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Owen Payton