

# Santana High School

## Guidance Department

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April 24, 2017

Dear NROTC Scholarship Committee:

I have been Samantha Bell's guidance counselor for the past two and a half years. She is a driven individual that thrives on competition and getting things done. She is excited for the possible opportunity to participate in the NROTC program.

Samantha has earned a weighted cumulative grade point average of 3.0. She currently ranks 133 out of a junior class of 350. Over the past six semesters, Samantha has taken at least three honors or Advanced Placement courses each semester. She was one of only a few students granted permission to enroll in our Engineering pathway a year early, straight in as a freshman. She began her engineering experience back at her middle school in sixth grade and requested a district transfer to Santana as a freshman to continue the pathway at the high school level. Santana's Project Lead the Way engineering pathway is well known and sought after by many students in our high school district. Although Samantha is still deciding on what specific area she would like to study and pursue as a career, she knows she wants it to be in Engineering.

It is evident by those who know Samantha that she has a strong competitive side. She does not give up easily and is often seen as "the last one standing." For example during conditioning drills for the dance team, Samantha was the last to "drop." She found strength to keep going by cheering the others on to stay strong and encouraging them to hold on a bit longer. When asked where she got her competitive side, she replied "from my mother." Samantha added that nowadays she typically wins the friendly mother/daughter competitions, but usually mom's playful response will be "I'll get you next time."

Samantha has managed to keep herself active and busy during her high school years through sports, club involvement and working. She was on the tennis team her freshman year, the gymnastics team her freshman and sophomore years, and the dance team her sophomore and junior years. She has been a member of the Spectrum Club (LGBT acceptance and support club) for the past three years which meets weekly; as well as being a founding member of the Cartoon Club since sophomore year which also has weekly meetings. In addition to school activities, Samantha has been employed by her mom's businesses doing administrative tasks. This past October she also earned a Marking Intern position for Senator Joel Anderson, and she has been working there two afternoons a week.

Samantha is a go-getter who is not afraid to work hard and push herself to complete a goal or task she has set for herself. I believe the opportunity for Samantha to participate in the NROTC program will benefit her tremendously for her future personal and professional goals. I ask that you give her strong consideration for your NROTC scholarship.

Sincerely,

Lori L. Ruff, M.A., M.S., P.P.S.  
Guidance Counselor, Department Chair