**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION - COUNSELOR FORM**

Most private schools require a letter of recommendation from your Counselor. UC/CSU’s do not accept them. Out of state public universities may or may not want/accept them. Please check each college’s requirements.

**Deadline: October 1ST for Ms. Souder! IT IS FIRM. For all other counselors, submit ONE MONTH in advance.**

**YOUR NAME**: Dessa Shapiro **DATE**: 9/28

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST:**

* ~~Invite your Counselor, and teachers to be your recommenders on the~~ [~~Common Application~~](https://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/default.aspx)~~. We recommend that you waive your FERPA rights to access your recommeLastndation - this helps ensure that colleges can trust that they have an honest recommendation.~~
* Go to the My Colleges tab in the Common App and select your Admissions Plan for each college. This will communicate your deadlines to your recommenders.
* On [Naviance](https://student.naviance.com/archiewilliams), please list all of the colleges to which you are applying under “Colleges I’m Thinking About”
* If using the [Coalition Application](https://www.mycoalition.org/), please invite your counselor ONLY if a counselor letter is required. Then, please select your Term and Admissions Plan for each college.
* If you are done with your application, you can submit it before the letters of recommendation are completed. As long as your deadlines are selected in your application, your recommenders know your deadlines. Please rest assured that we will submit your letter by your deadline. Please do not send reminders to us, or ask to have it submitted early (unless the college has a deadline that is different from what is selected on Common App).

**TRANSCRIPTS**:

* Common App: Your Counselor will upload these automatically to your account
* UC/CSUs: vary by campus – only if specifically requested through portal – see Registrar for transcript
* Non-Common App, out of state Public & Private colleges NOT on the Common App: We will send IF we are sending or uploading a letter or school report. For all others, see Registrar for transcript
* **College of Marin transcripts** must be sent directly from COM to your college choices. This is a STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY.

**SAT/ACT test scores** must be sent directly from the testing company to your college choices. This is a STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY. Do this online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and/or [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

**SCHOOL INFORMATION**:

**SCHOOL**: Sir Francis Drake High School (many colleges still have our former name in their system)

1327 Sir Francis Drake Blvd, San Anselmo CA 94960

**COLLEGE BOARD/CEEB CODE**: 052770

**COUNSELOR’S TITLE**: Counselor

**MOLLY BAKER**: [mbaker@tamdistrict.org](mailto:mbaker@tamdistrict.org) **PHONE**: (415) 458-3447

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**Please answer the following questions completely and thoughtfully.**

1. **When is the first application deadline which requires a letter of recommendation and what is the name of the college for this deadline?**

* Nov 15th or Nov 1st
* Nov 1st: Northeastern University, USC, WPI(also another for 1/15)
* Nov 15th: Depaul University, UW
* I recognize that I am behind schedule in giving the teachers and counselors a month to write their letters. I did not consider applying for any early application until recently, since I’ve been distracted working on my essays and other tasks. I’m not very attached to applying Early App for any school, so if you need time more time (or I decide I need more time to work on essays/ apps) I will most likely not apply for any on Nov 1st, but I’m just letting you know if I feel everything is prepared enough by that time I will do the early application for that date.

1. **Please give us the names of four teachers who know you well but who are NOT writing you a letter of recommendation**

* Chizzy Brown, Kathleen McCormick, Mary Buchanan, and Francie Salle

1. **List five adjectives that best describe you and briefly (ten words or so) describe why?**

* **Adventurous**, I love to attempt new things and push myself to do things outside my comfort zone
* **Curious**: I love thinking, I'm a very internal person with a head constantly filled with thoughts, and I love to explore things that question my opinions and beliefs
* **inquisitive**. I'm not a very talkative person but when I do find something that interests me I will research it and be able to talk about it for hours
* **thoughtful** I would describe myself as a thoughtful person, I tend to act more with my head and consider outcomes
* Ambiouse: i
* **ambiguous** I have a lot of different aspects, and I can adjust to different environments when necessary

1. **Describe at least two experiences that have had the greatest impact on your life or accomplishments of which you are most proud (i.e., academic, athletic, creative, community, etc.).**

* About two years ago I did a lifeguard training camp over the summer at the beach. It was very difficult for me since I had never experienced anything like it before, and I felt behind my peers. And most of the other people knew each other previously. Although it was a struggle, at the end of the program I felt proud to receive my certification and volunteer award. It taught me a lot about preservation and how to motivate myself to accomplish things in the future.
* In 6th grade (when I was 11/12) I loved theater, so I tried really hard to get a good role in the play ( I think it was Sherlock Holmes). Every night I would look over the audition lines and practice them in different voices, sometimes recording myself so I could judge myself. When I did the discussion I was nervous but confident. I ended up getting a good role and was very proud of myself. I think it was the first time I had truly worked to accomplish something in which I was uncertain of the outcome. School had always come easy to me, but this was something I accomplished against the odds.

1. **Describe your academic strength/s:**

* I’m focused and will give my full attention to lessons and instruction when I need to
* I am usually very punctual and make a point to be on time to class and on time with assignments
* I'm open to any ideas for improvement and will willingly take critique
* I also usually pick things up pretty quickly and am a fast learner
* I will try my absolute best to make work that exceeds the standard

1. **Please provide one or two examples of times you have been in a position of leadership and how you handled it.**

* Last year I worked as a TA for my engineering teacher, and helped teach and come up with lesson ideas for the younger students. At first, it was difficult because I was unfamiliar with a lot of the things we were teaching the students. So, on occasion, I had to work to learn new skills in order to assist others. I would often be learning alongside them and help them when necessary. I learned that this dynamic helped them trust me more and be more willing to ask for help.

1. **What teacher(s) and/or courses have been the most influential/inspirational during high school & why?**

* The High School classes that were most inspirational were my engineering design class in junior year. I found it inspirational because we learned in a very independent method and had the option to create our own projects and explore a lot of different things. It was also the first time I was able to begin in a class leadership position, since in that class we had an election and some student leaders. Another class I find influential is my current American Government class. Although it's just getting started I think it is very interesting and important to learn about our current government systems and how they are affecting modern politics. Another class that inspired me was my AP art history class because it taught me a lot about culture and how humans have learned and developed through history.

1. **What challenges you the most in school and how have you dealt with or overcome this challenge?**

* The most challenging part of school has been the social aspects, specifically group work and projects. I sometimes get frustrated and find it difficult when working with others in projects when they are assigned. I find it difficult to manage the work and have often ended up having to do most of the work myself or have allowed others to take credit they haven deserved. Overtime I have been able to overcome this by learning to speak up to my teachers and teammates. I have also learned to often take up a leadership position so I can relegate tasks to others and have a better chance of working synchronously.

1. **What are you considering for a college major and what inspired you to consider this major? If you have any experience related to the major please describe it. If applying undeclared, please feel free to share any potential areas of study you are considering.**

* I’m still undecided of what exact major I wish to pursue, but I do know I want to go into a computer technology field such as computer science, computer programming or some type of computer automated design (CAD). I have some experience, although it is a more recent interest. I became interested in computer related technology when I took a graphic design class in 10th grade and got to explore 3D design. I also have got some experience when I took a game design class over the summer and learned some coding. I’m currently taking AP computer science principles and doing a tech related internship. I also hope to take a class at com related to programming next semester.

1. **Will you be applying for financial aid (state/government grants)? If so, are there any financial hardships you think colleges should be aware of?**

* I would like to apply for some financial aid, but I don’t think I will apply for that much. I do have some college money from my grandparents but from my parents income I might be able to qualify for something.

1. **How do you spend your free time? What hobbies/interests do you enjoy outside of school?**

* Outside of school I take aerial dance (a type of circus art) and in general really like dance and art. I have also been surfing for about 2 years. I like to spend time with friends, go to concerts. I like playing video games, and have recently gained interest in making them.

1. **Tell me something unusual/unique about you or your circumstance that sets you apart from your peers.**

* I have always been given a lot of independence at home, and I feel like it allowed me to mature a little faster than others around me. I feel I have a lot of unique perspectives about schooling and just life in general. I'd like to think I’m a pretty logical and realistic person.

1. **What summer plans do you have (or did you complete) that will advance your candidacy for admission to your chosen universities?**

* This past summer I did a game design camp with an organization called COSMOS at UCSC. It was a selective camp which I had applied for and was one of the few who got accepted. 2 years ago( summer of 2021) I did a lifeguard/ red cross certification program at stinson beach, a few days a week for a few months. I was able to pass the exam and got my certification.

1. **What do you hope to learn/gain in your years at university? (For example: specific job skills, expand knowledge, grow as a critical thinker, play a competitive sport, travel abroad.) Please tell me in 2-3 sentences about your own personal goals and hopes for yourself.**

* I hope to gain some specific job skills, especially since the field i’m pursuing requires a lot of specific skills and it is much easier to succeed with a degree. I also hope to lean a lot about human relations, networking. and general working skills. I also hope to do a semester of study abroad in my 2nd or 3rd year of school. I'd also like to explore different internship and co-op programs and explore job opportunities.

1. **Visualize yourself at age 28. What have you accomplished, how have you grown and what are your future goals?**

* At the age of 28 I hope to live alone or with a partner in a city apartment and have a good position at a tech related job, hopefully some type of supervisor or team manager/ organizer. I hope I would have experienced a lot of different types of jobs and found what I was most interested in.

1. **If you could write your own recommendation to the admissions committee, what are things you would want them to know about you? What would you emphasize?**

* I would want them to know that I am very self-motivated and love to learn interesting useful things. And that I will do everything possible to go above and beyond when it comes to my education. ALso that I'm a very unique/individual person and will bring those aspects with me to whatever school I end up attending. I would emphasize my dedication and confidence in my mind and abilities. And mention that I am a quick learner who has a very flexible mind and is able to synthesize the different aspects of my life.

1. **If you have a resume, please make sure it includes the following information, attach it and leave the next three sections blank. If you do not have a resume, please provide title, description, your role/position, and when you participated/received the award for each of the following three sections:** 
   1. AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS: Academic/Non-Academic/In or Out of School
   2. ACTIVITIES & LEADERSHIP ROLES: In/Out of School (Athletics, Clubs, Youth Groups, etc.)
   3. WORK AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

resume: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZELpLBuVcdA8VKhzh9i3qoPRBsHqgCgJ/view?usp=sharing>

Additional info: volunteer work at the local youth court, and work for the water conservation club, received The President's Volunteer Service Award. An currently working as an intern at Esporterz. Used to be on the swim team for middle school and freshman year.

**Great job! Thank you for the helpful and descriptive information. It is certain to help your Counselor communicate your strengths and potential to the colleges you have chosen.**

PARENTS: Your parents know you better than anyone else, so we would love to hear from them! Please ask your parent(s) to write a summary of their perspective of you, including what they consider to be your unique qualities. Have them cite experiences or personal anecdotes that demonstrate your strengths and special talents. Please have them focus on high school experiences, although they may include significant earlier events that shaped your life. They should feel free to brag about you in an email directly to your Counselor at the email address listed on page one.

**IT IS CUSTOMARY TO WRITE A THANK YOU NOTE TO THE PERSON WHO WRITES YOUR LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION.**