

March 26, 2020

Dear Appeal Decisions Committee,

I am writing in support of Jason Vu , a candidate for first year admission. Jason brings a unique combination of intellectual and cultural skills to all of his endeavors. Throughout his high school experience, he has represented his Vietnamese culture in a school community that is 91.5% Latinx. He has identified online resources to teach himself HTML, CSS, JS, PHP, Python, and Bootstrap. And, he has been recognized for exceeding supervisor expectations in the work study program.

Jason has consistently demonstrated his academic curiosity and determination. He will complete 6 AP /honors classes by graduation - the most rigorous curriculum offered by the school. Although he is drawn to STEM topics, his AP Seminar research on social justice issues included individual and group presentations in the social sciences. Across the board, Jason's performance has been outstanding. And, each summer Jason has participated in enrichment programs to expand his skills and perspective.

To help cover the cost of his education, Jason has worked at a variety of work study placements, including VMWare and Juniper Networks. He adapts quickly to new professional environments, and has taken on advanced projects as a result of his skills and initiative. For example, he developed an online portal to track the Global Sales Acceleration Team's performance. He was also a founding member of Cristo Rey Speech and Debate team. And, he exceeded his volunteer requirement with City Team, providing resources to the unhoused in San Jose.

These accomplishments are even more impressive given that Cristo Rey students must complete all college prep & AP coursework in 4 class days per week, instead of 5, and AP classes are limited to students in particular grade levels. Moreover, the math curriculum is self-paced and self-taught using an online program through Algebra II, relying on students to take ownership of their learning process.

In conclusion, Jason stands out from his peers in that he is always looking for opportunities to grow as a scholar. He has spent his summers taking advantage of enrichment program scholarships offered by Cristo Rey partners to expand his academic skills, as well as pursuing his passion for computer science. At the school he found his niche as a junior with our newly formed Speech & Debate program. Preparing for tournaments with the team has brought him out of his shell to make friendships and intellectual connections across cultural groups at the school. As a senior, Jason was selected to represent the school at the Ignatian Teach-In in Washington DC where he advocated for social justice issues with legislative representatives. His commitment to the betterment of himself and the advancement of others has earned my most enthusiastic recommendation. Please contact me if there are questions about his qualifications for admission.

Sincerely,

Todd Hicks, Director of University Access & Success Cristo Rey San Jose Jesuit High School,
408-293-0425 x141, todd.hicks@cristoreysj.org , 1389 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose, CA 95116

