



To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter to express my highest regards for Tara Kamshad as an applicant to your program. In my career, working with Tara has been a highlight. Her positivity, passion for learning, and zeal for doing meaningful intellectual and creative work, inspires and has energized me to be a better teacher and person.

Tara took my computer science class in ninth grade, which was during the COVID-19 pandemic, an incredibly challenging time. In the same way that Tara's relentless soccer practice has made her one of the best players on her school and club teams, Tara's coding tenacity was unmatched. She scheduled meetings proactively to improve her skills. She designed and independently created projects such as heart blood flow simulation and a soccer drill planner. Her peers and I referred to her work as an exemplar.

As she cultivated her capacities, she offered aid to everyone in the class. Other students would schedule meetings with her for help. "Zoom school" was particularly challenging for many students, and she reached out and offered tutoring to every single student in the class. Without any official request from me, she still offers help to younger students each year. She stops by my current classes to provide encouragement and tips. In fact, when I need a substitute teacher to cover my classes at Dalton, I ask Tara to teach my computer science courses. At first my colleagues were skeptical and uncomfortable with this idea of a student acting as a teacher, but when they saw her teach, they were inspired.

Last year, I was cordially invited to a conference held by Meta about young people, mental health, and social media. I said I would love to come if I could bring a student who could thoughtfully represent a teen perspective. Given her interest in tech, her charisma, and her experience creating digital content for Dalton Women in Sports, Tara was my first choice. We attended the conference together and Tara was a star. All the researchers, professors, and technologists loved her.

Furthermore, I have seen how Tara is an excellent teacher and mentor. She was the captain of the Dalton soccer team, a cornerstone of Dalton's Peer Leadership program, and a mentor to all the young people I have taught in computer science. She has the tenacity to do great things and the gift of charisma, deep understanding, clear communication, and the ability to hold multiple perspectives. Tara is a super star and any program would be lucky to have her as part of their community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmly,
Molly Josephs
Computer Science
The Dalton School