Ryan Helmlinger

Period 3

6/11/16

College Recommendation sheet

1. **What class have you taken from me (and when)?**

I have taken Artificial Intelligence with you my junior year in the 2015-2016 school year and I have thoroughly enjoyed the class.

1. **What field of academics are you interested in pursuing?**

I am interesting in pursuing the field of computer science, and more specifically, Artificial Intelligence. Last year I applied to a summer program UVA Advance. I looked over the options for the classes I could take, and Artificial Intelligence stood out, but it was a senior level class. I talked to the program supervisor and the professor of the class, and they decided to let me take it. It was only 4 weeks, so I didn’t get as much out of it as I did in your class this year, but it was still very intriguing and I learned a lot of the overall concepts of Artificial Intelligence. I enjoyed that class and I have definitely enjoyed your class this year. I am always excited to start our new units and learn new concepts in the field of Artificial Intelligence.

1. **What are you passionate about?**

In freshman year I didn’t have any CS background and I took TJ’s Foundations of CS course. I really enjoyed it and took APCS the next year. Also, as mentioned, I took a programing class at UVA last summer. This year I took as many programming courses as I could with Artificial Intelligence, Parallel Computing, Web Development, and App Development. Next year I will take the only programming course left, Computer Vision, along with my Senior Research Project. I also have an internship at Yext this summer, which I am really looking forward to because I am excited to finally see what it’s like to program in the real world.

I enjoy programming because I love to solve the problems. Since I was young I have always enjoyed puzzles and math. Computer science seems to be the perfect combination of those two. Every time I program something, I think of it as a competition, even if it is just against myself. Plus, when I finish the program, I enjoy the feeling of solving it, but I still try to find ways to make it even faster or better. For example, in our Sudoku assignment earlier this year, I could have stopped after I got mine under a minute or so, but I kept trying to improve it and I eventually got it down to under two seconds.

1. **What activities are you currently participating in i.e. Tutoring, clubs, Honor Societies, sports, volunteer work, etc.**

I have been involved with some 8th period activities at TJ including Computer Tech Assistants, Innovations and Concepts of Engineering, Global Health Initiative, and Computer Security. Out of those activities, Computer Tech Assistants had been most influential for me. I enjoy this activity because I do it with my friends, but also I have learned a lot too. Since starting the club, I have learned how to build and set-up computers, projectors, printers, and more.

However, my favorite activity has been AA travel hockey, an independent activity. I dedicate a lot of time to competitive hockey. I have played hockey since I was six and it has been my most influential activity, because it has taught me a lot.

Hockey takes up a lot of time, which I usually have to read in car rides to and from games and in hotel rooms just to keep up with the TJ coursework. But I still play it because I love the game. Competitive hockey has taught me a lot about leadership, teamwork, dedication, time management, and persistence.

1. **Why do you want to attend this summer program or college?**

Most of the colleges that I’m applying to will have a strong computer science program. More specifically, I’m looking for a good Artificial Intelligence program. I am also excited to work on big projects, so if the college offers that, it will be another good factor. However, besides a college that excels at computer science, I am also looking to have a good experience, which means a college that has a good campus life and some fun sports to watch and root for.

1. **What words would you use to describe yourself?**

I am very persistent. This characteristic is developed from several of my other significant attributes. I am patient, which allows me to persevere, even when faced with difficult or frustrating situations. I am also very competitive. This gives me extra motivation to always finish a task or complete something, even if I am only competing with myself. I hardly ever get frustrated or angry. This allows me to be patient and stay calm even in stressful or frustrating situations.

1. **How do you react under stress or when things do not go as planned?**

I hardly ever get frustrated, which allows me to keep persevering through a problem even if it isn’t working out at first. Failure also makes me work harder. Last year in pre-calculus, I didn’t struggle too much and got a 95%. However, this year in BC calculus, I did poorly on the first test. I wasn’t happy with myself, but I didn’t shy away from the challenge. Instead I just worked harder to better understand the concepts and eventually become more successful in the class.

Thank you, Dr. Gabor