



North Hills School District
Senior High School

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter on behalf of Elena McGoey. Elena was a student in my AP Environmental Science class last year. During that time, Elena proved to be a very mature, responsible, motivated, and engaging student who showed great leadership and character.

Elena performed very successfully in my class; she dedicated the time required for such a rigorous course as AP Environmental Science. She was always prepared to participate in class discussions, activities or labs, and asked very thoughtful questions in and out of class to refine her understanding of the material. Elena chose to work with the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium for her AP Environmental research project/final exam. Several times/week throughout the school year, Elena went to the PPG Aquarium to collect data and perform research on the rehabilitation efforts for Harbor, an injured green sea turtle. Her research enabled the aquarists to better understand which enrichment exercises were most beneficial to the rehabilitation program. The passion, time, motivation and sense of responsibility with which Elena performed her research was exceptional. On a daily basis in class, Elena worked well with her peers and was always willing to help them, showing good leadership and communication skills. Her self-motivation, strong work ethic and passion for learning makes her an ideal candidate at any university!

Through our many activities and discussions in AP Environmental Science, I was able to get to know more about Elena than just her academic tendencies. I know that Elena is not only a strong academic student, but she is also very active in enrichment opportunities, volunteering, and school activities. Elena has participated with the Will Allen Foundation Quest for Success for 4 years, and was selected for the Pennsylvania School of Excellence in the Agricultural Sciences with scholarship (a 4-week, on-campus, hands-on intensive workshop for agricultural science). Elena has also volunteered at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium and the National Aviary, as well as working in 2 different therapeutic barns: one housing horses and small animals, and another that includes riding for handicapped individuals. She is currently a member of the National Honor Society, Wind Symphony and her church's Joyful Noise Ensemble. Elena has also participated in Hands for Service, SADD, and the Latin Club. Elena seems to effortlessly balance all these extracurricular responsibilities with her academic workload, and still manage to come to school every day with a smile on her face! She is well on her way to becoming a caring citizen that gives back to her community - indeed, she has won several awards, including the Jefferson Award and Carson Award, both for service.

Elena is the type of student and citizen that should be given every opportunity and resource to flourish as her passion, keen intellect and proven commitment to giving back to society means that we will all benefit from her growth and success. She has a true love of the environment and the world around her. With her remarkable work ethic, and inquisitive and friendly personality that draws others to her, Elena makes a positive impact wherever she goes!

Sincerely,
Laura Clark, AP Environmental Science Teacher
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