



WINCHESTER
THURSTON
SCHOOL

Letter of Recommendation for Nadine Oury

Every so often, a student comes along whose impact on the school has been so remarkable that it is hard to envision what the community will be like without him or her, and Nadine Oury is unquestionably one of those students. In my thirteen years in education and my seven years in administration, Nadine stands at the top of my list as one of the most mature, reliable, productive, transformative, and inspirational student leaders with whom I have worked. With this in mind, I am writing to express my unequivocal recommendation of Nadine for the Trib Total Media Outstanding Citizen Award.

In the classroom, Nadine is an intellectual force who has aimed to take as challenging of a course load as possible throughout her four years at Winchester Thurston and has elevated every course in which she has enrolled. Nadine has achieved stellar marks during her education at the school, which is no surprise given her history teacher's perspective that Nadine's "work ethic is virtually unmatched." Never one to rest on her laurels, Nadine possesses a genuine curiosity that propels her continuously to cultivate new skills and obtain knowledge beyond what is offered in the classroom. Her pursuit of understanding makes her a vital member of each and every course and allows her to reach truly unique and thought-provoking insights. As Nadine's English teacher explains, Nadine is an "adventurous and capable" writer and a participant whose "substantive and meaningful contributions to class discussions... pushes [the class] deeper into the text[s]" that she studies with her classmates. When she is not meeting with her teachers or running one of the myriad clubs and student organizations in which she participates, you can find Nadine ruminating over a *New York Times* crossword puzzle with friends and calling over teachers and other passersby to get them to join in on the problem-solving fun. Nadine's hard work and curiosity has yielded impressive results within her senior year, earning her a straight-A record, recognition as a National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist, and college acceptances to Harvard, Emory, and the University of Pittsburgh. While I marvel at these accomplishments, what impresses me even more is the significant impact Nadine has had throughout her time at the school.

Outside of the classroom, Nadine has played a truly transformational role within the school community by enhancing programs already in existence and developing new initiatives to help our community in its ongoing efforts to be a more equitable and inclusive space for students and adults alike. In addition to being the captain of our field hockey team, the editor of our school yearbook, and a member of our varsity fencing team, Nadine has been one of the most effective leaders of student government with whom I have worked. After being elected into office as a sophomore grade-level representative, Nadine noticed a scarcity of female students who ran for and were ultimately elected into our Student Council. In an effort to draw her peers' attention to this issue, Nadine collected data about the gender breakdown of students who ran for office and those who were elected into office over the previous five school years. From that data, Nadine prepared a detailed presentation for our entire student body, which she delivered at one of our morning meetings, to expose the disparity that she noticed. Nadine exemplified how this imbalance in representation was visible in our national

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political climate as well, and she delivered a compelling argument about the need for better representation in politics. Since Nadine's presentation, we have seen a surge in not only female applicants to Student Council, but also a surge in representation as well, with the Student Council now being evenly balanced by gender. It is also no surprise to anyone who witnessed Nadine's research and presentation that she would one day become the President of Student Council during her senior year, as the student body clearly respects her and is inspired by her vision and willingness to work hard to achieve positive change.

In her role as Student Council President, Nadine is a passionate advocate for her peers. She overhauled our Freshmen/Senior buddy program, which involves each member of the senior class mentoring one of their younger peers, by creating a detailed survey system in order to better match students based on their shared interests. She is an excellent communicator and does a wonderful job keeping students informed about school events and initiatives. When I was asked to find a student to serve on the Transition Team for our newly appointed Head of School last spring, Nadine was the obvious choice, and she was not daunted working with the team of board members, administrators, and faculty who were entrusted with helping to formulate goals and recommendations for our new leader. Nadine is the founder of our Asian Student Union, which serves both as an affinity group for our Asian students as they navigate day-to-day life at school as well as a space for all students to learn and dialogue about the richness of Asian culture. Lastly, Nadine is the leader of our Student Ambassador program, and is called upon consistently to greet and tour visiting families, students, and prospective employees; represent the school at panel discussions for those interested in applying to the school; and train new students to for ambassador roles. The visiting adults who interact with Nadine consistently report back to us that one of the highlights of their experience was speaking with and learning from her.

It has been a true privilege to work alongside Nadine during the last several years. She has been such a reliable partner in the important work we are doing at the school, and she has been an admirable leader and role model to her fellow peers. I know that whatever assistance your scholarship would provide to her would be put to excellent use by a young woman who is destined for greatness. If I can be of further assistance in any way throughout Nadine's application process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



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