



March 8, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

When I first met Gillian Gaynor, she was a quiet sophomore in my pre-calculus class. In a class full of upperclassmen, she was content to do her work and score very well on all of the tests. But over the next couple of years, I have witnessed Gillian grow into a strong classroom leader – first in my Honors Calculus class and this year in my AP Calculus BC class. I am excited to recommend Gillian Gaynor for the Outstanding Youth Citizen Scholarship.

Throughout high school, Gillian has challenged herself by taking our most rigorous courses. This is especially true in math where she has not only taken the highest level of calculus we offer, but she also doubled up last year by taking AP Statistics. In class, she demonstrates an ability to understand difficult calculus concepts by often being the first to answer questions. On the rare occasion that she is struggling with some of the material, Gillian will always come see me and she is unwilling to give up until she is comfortable with her understanding. She is an active participant in class and will often ask good thinking questions that further the class discussion to her benefit and to the benefit of the students around her.

Outside of class, Gillian devotes the same energy and attention to her various school activities. As President of the French Club, Vice-President of National Honor Society, and captain of our Cross Country, Track, and Soccer teams, Gillian's leadership ability is evident. These are not just honorary titles, but positions she has earned by being a strong role model and an organized leader. It is clear that the other students in these organizations look up to Gillian.

In addition to her school activities, Gillian finds time to volunteer at Presbyterian Senior Care where she works closely with the patients. This provides a small glimpse into Gillian's warm and caring nature. While these qualities have also been evident in my classes the past few years, to get a complete picture of who Gillian is, you also have to include her dry sense of humor and biting sarcasm. Always keeping me on my toes, her presence in class will definitely be missed next year.

Gillian is a student who has challenged herself with a rigorous course load and has demonstrated herself to be smart, determined, independent, and well-rounded. With her intelligence, motivation, classroom leadership, and integrity, Gillian is a student who distinguishes herself from those around her. I am confident that Gillian is a worthy candidate for your scholarship and would be an asset to any school she attends. I give her my highest recommendation. Please feel free to email me at [mcapsambelis@rsd.k12.pa.us](mailto:mcapsambelis@rsd.k12.pa.us) with any questions you may have regarding Gillian. It would be a pleasure for me to further discuss her qualifications with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Capsambelis', is written over a horizontal line.

Mark Capsambelis  
Mathematics Teacher

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