



It is an absolute pleasure to recommend Jessica “Jess” Huwar for admission. Jess has so many wonderful qualities; I don’t know where to begin. Do I start with her intellect? Or perhaps I should discuss the many ways Jess has served as a leader in the Oakland Catholic community. I could also begin by speaking to her intellectual curiosity, passion for the global affairs, diplomatic leadership skills, and care for her peers and community. Should I speak of her All-American athleticism? I have so much to say about Jess Huwar, I just hope that the words that I pen in this letter can adequately express how amazing this young woman is, and the impact she has left amongst her peers and the Oakland Catholic Community.

Academically, Jess is an outstanding student. Her dedication, hard work and zeal for learning is apparent in the rigorous classes she has taken. Jess has taken the most demanding courses Oakland Catholic has to offer, including six Advanced Placement (AP) classes, three College Equivalent (CE) classes; (AP and CE classes are the highest rigor of classes offered at Oakland Catholic, and we do not offer AP Physics or Chemistry). Jess has earned a weighted 4.60 on a 4.0 scale while maxing out our curriculum. During her sophomore year, Jess suffered from a concussion, and had to miss one week of school. The effects of her concussion lingered through the year, and affected her performance on final exams, (although she still earned high marks in her classes). You will see from the upward trend in grades on her transcript that Jess bounced back junior year. In addition to her busy schedule, Jess is honored as one of our Joan of Arc Scholars, which make up the top cohort of the graduating class. JOA scholars are required to complete additional academic assignments, attend lectures, and contribute to the OC literary magazine. Jess has embraced opportunities through JOA and consistently challenges herself in and outside of the walls of Oakland Catholic.

Jess’s intellectual curiosity stretches beyond the classroom. This past summer, Jess participated in the World Affairs Council Global Leadership Seminar (GLS). In this program Jess was able to further ignite her passion for global affairs. Jess also has participated in EuroChallenge through her participation in Model UN. EuroChallenge is a highly competitive program focused on the economic state of the European Union and Euro Zone. Jess and a few of her peers spent five months compiling research and preparing a presentation on the aging demographic of Italy and its effect on the economy. Jess and her group had the opportunity to present their findings in front of a panel of judges. Jess appreciated the opportunity to research a topic that she would not have had the opportunity to study in class. Jess further demonstrates her passion for world cultures through her participation in the Global Competence Initiative (GCI). *“The Global Competence Initiative certificate program at Oakland Catholic High School is designed to address the need for a workforce that is globally aware and culturally fluent in our increasingly interconnected and interdependent world.”* Jess has demonstrated a willingness to go beyond her comfort zone to understand the world around her, and will earn her global competence certificate at the conclusion of her senior year.

The footprint that Jess has left on our community is quite large. She has held a leadership position in Student Council for all four years, and currently serves as the Executive President. Jess is well-respected by her peers, teachers, and administration (myself included). In fact, her Physics teacher commented that she has been the best class president that he has witnessed in all of his years of teaching. She is responsible, dedicated, and diplomatic, and her peers have come to rely on her to get the job done. In her position as Exec President, Jess works to create an inclusive environment. She shares, *“I have used my position on student council as executive president to focus on including everyone in school events. I want every student to leave OC with happy memories to take on the rest of their lives.”* Jess also has served as the Varsity Captain of the Oakland Catholic Field Hockey Team. I personally have had the opportunity to observe Jess in this role as one of her coaches last year. I was impressed with Jess from get-go. She was mature beyond her years, and had a greater vision for the season that team was going to have than many of her teammates. Jess was an immediate leader from her hard work, dedication, and impressive athletic skill level. She would be the first one on the field, and last one off of the field. I witnessed Jess would taking younger players under her wing, taking time to explain the game from the sidelines. She would work with them on their skills, and work to include any player or any skill level into

games and practices, affirming the value that they add to the team. She also took small tasks seriously, such as the team equipment duties. Jess took on the responsibility to ensure that water, balls, cones, and goalie equipment successfully made it to the field. Jess deservedly held a starting position as well as the captainship title both junior and senior year. Jess is one of our best players, and has the athletic skills to play in college, however, she made the choice to prioritize her academics.

If I have the opportunity to have a daughter one day, I would want her to be like Jess. Jess has the care and character anyone would desire to have in a friend, family member, and citizen of campus. Jess is mindful of others and looks to cultivate a welcoming and inclusive environment. She has an awareness of how others are feeling, and looks for opportunities to encourage, or listen to her peers. She is intentional to be a source of positivity, especially when she senses that her classmates are stressed. Beyond her leadership, you will find that Jess has immersed herself in service. I trust that her application will detail her service hours along with an exhaustive list of her activities. It is clear that Jess cares about her community, and her conviction on the well-being of others makes her a true stand-out, and speaks to her character.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Jess over the past two years. Jess was one of the first in her graduating class to have met with me to discuss her college plans, (although I will comment that she is quite independent, and needs little assistance). She is an engaged participant in all of my sessions, and even would attend sessions that were oriented towards parents (by herself). I can always rely on Jess to offer a thoughtful response or a helping hand. I am impressed with Jess's focus finding the right program and the right fit. She has given her post-secondary plans much introspective thought and reflection. Although Jess has demonstrated her interest in global affairs, her favorite classes lie in the sciences. Jess plans to study biochemistry in college (with a minor in Spanish), and is considering a pre-law track. I think that Jess could be successful in any program given her intellect, perspective, and thoughtful approach.

A woman for others, Jess embodies Oakland Catholic's pillars of Scholarship, Service, and Faith. Jess will be a scholar in the classroom and will pursue opportunities beyond the classroom walls. She will participate in field work and research. She will seek out opportunities to kindle her faith. Jess will be a leader in her future community. Wherever she ends up I know she will be creating a welcoming and inclusive environment. Jess will be dearly missed when she graduates. I give Jess my most enthusiastic recommendation. Thank you for giving her your most thoughtful consideration for admission to your institution. Jess will make a difference wherever she attends!

Sincerely,

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