



# Sharon High School

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Jose Libano, Principal  
Elizabeth Gavin, Assistant Principal  
Jennifer Graveline, Special Education Administrator

Robert Pomer, Dean of Academic Affairs  
Nicholas Schlierf, Athletic Director

## Counselor recommendation for Sophia Fein

Date of birth: 04/28/2001

Motivated and independent, mature and sincere, Sophia Fein is a model student, leader, athlete and community member. She has worked diligently to maximize her high school experience not only for herself but also for all the member of the Sharon High School community. Her dynamic and thorough approach to life has contributed to her successes. As a student, Sophia has embraced learning, shown a very high level of understanding and has worked incredibly hard. In all aspects of life, Sophia has embarked on major projects and has demonstrated perseverance and determination to get things done. Sophia is a doer; she is not impulsive in her actions, but is thorough, independent, analytical and prepared, which has led to her continued success – across a myriad of settings. Sophia’s goals include a double major in system, industrial, or engineering science and finance or economics. Her academic foundation is incredibly strong and her study has been very deliberate. When we spoke about her “next steps” she shared, “I have always aspired to start my own company. I plan to combine my engineering skills with the business skills and aspire to successfully create a startup. I have a running list of potential companies that I wish to start such as an app that allows people to buy and sell travel rewards points, a company that supplies electric car chargers to environmentally friendly grocery stores, and a tennis clothing line that allows women easy mobility and locations to hold tennis balls.” Rarely – like hidden gem, needle in a haystack, rarely – do I have a student share such a detailed and thoughtful “next steps”. Sophia is a rare and very special find!

Academically, Sophia has pursued a very challenging course of study in a high competitive academic environment. She has been deliberate in determining appropriate balance and challenge in her academic schedule. As a student who works very hard and one who has sets very high personal standards of achievement, Sophia has developed a solid relationship with me to discuss and evaluate all of her academic options. She has demonstrated a very high level of maturity and confidence in her selections and, as a result, has thoroughly enjoyed her academic career. As a senior, she enjoys a complement of courses including AP Spanish V, AP Computer Science A, AP Economics, Honors English IV and Calculus. Having completed AP Physics in her junior year, Sophia crafted the opportunity to take advanced engineering topics and apply the concepts in our Engineering Design course – a yearlong experience (Internship/TA first semester and Advanced in the second half of the year). One note is Sophia’s math sequence, which has landed her in an challenging senior Calculus course, while she does have some regrets about not pursuing AP Calculus, she is confident in her instruction and preparation for college business and engineering mathematics. The root of this dilemma - Honors Geometry class – a course in which her performance was impacted by some transition issues in her first year of high school - this impacted her sequence in honors leveled courses. Since that year, Sophia’s overall performance across the disciplines has been excellent. Sophia’s development as a mathematician (and her confidence in her math ability) too has been exceptional as evidenced by her perfect score on the ACT and her recognition as a National Merit Commended Student.

Her Precalculus teacher reflects, “Sophia is a promising and diligent math student and a wonderful individual. She has a knack for engaging the whole class in participation striving to allow every student that chance to get involved. She would ask questions of her peers (questions she had the answer to) and then would engage in conversation about the hows and whys of a problem and the solution...the attribute I admire the most about her is her unwavering kindness...even if she had a bad day, I would never have knows!”

## Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Sharon High School strives to be a respectful, caring, dynamic, and inspirational learning community.  
We offer our students the academic, civic, and social tools to be informed, thoughtful, and effective contributors to a globally connected world.

**Perseverance ~ Responsibility ~ Integrity ~ Dedication ~ Excellence**

*Sharon Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of age color disability gender identity homelessness national origin race religion sex or sexual orientation*

Natural and authentic, Sophia, a quiet and effective leader, impacts life all around her. Whether addressing a challenge in our school community (keeping the Class of 2019 class event planning within budget), the community at large (as a member of Youth Lead tackling project related to homelessness, Cubes of Kindness), a team (a winning tennis teaming working to get even better or a struggling volleyball team striving to develop young players), or helping her family cope with changes and embrace challenges, Sophia's natural empathy initiates response and then her incredible problem solving abilities kick in to find a solution. As a result of her quiet leadership, she is able to engage and empower people and have them contribute, often without them even recognizing her direction and influence.

The Engineering Club is a product of Sophia's initiative and leadership. The problem: There are more students who want to enroll in the Engineering Design courses than the school can accommodate, leaving too many students without the opportunity to access hands-on engineering experiences. She set up a meeting with one of the Engineering Design teachers with a plan to establish an Engineering Club that meets after school and students can engage in some of the projects that are introduced and completed in the class. Sophia and a few of her peers would lead the projects and run the lab. When I spoke with the advisor he shared how incredibly impressed he was with the initiative. He also shared that while he supports and supervises the club and lab, Sophia and the club members lead the projects and directly teach their peers. He also explained that Sophia needed to access funding for 3-D printing supplies – which she did by writing a grant to a local organization. He shares, “Sophia was so enthusiastic about the concepts that she was learning in her first engineering class, she was inspired to start an engineers club. I agreed to advise the group and so it began. The club has 9 active members and open to all students who want to explore, and ironically or not so ironically, is all male, with the exception of Sophia, their president. It is a pleasure to see her lead and to beam with energy and excitement about extended study of engineering concepts and hands-on experimentation.”

As a member of one of the most dominant high school tennis teams in the state, Sophia is a tireless workhorse. Her coach and teammates respect her for her work ethic and drive. When working to perfect her kick serve, (a second serve that confuses one's opponent by twisting mid-bounce), her coach shares, “Sophia took the challenge as motivational and rewarding. Mastering that skill was just one of a host of technical elements that Sophia has in her “tennis toolbox” making her one of the most competitive and fiercest opponents”. Whether with her SHS teammates or with her USTA team, she is always willing to assist teammates as they work to perfect their own skills and techniques. Again, Sophia sees a challenge, finds a solution and then works tirelessly to perfect the plan.

Sophia is very close with her immediate family and with extended family members living out of state they have embraced others like family. Mr. and Mrs. Fein encouraged “family giving” very early on in her childhood. This went far beyond collecting and donating items at the holidays or writing a check for charity. It meant both a physical and an emotional investment. For Sophia and her older brother and younger sister, the people they met at Orchard Cove became like grandparents and the relationships built are real and authentic. When they became teenagers, her parents encouraged seeking opportunities to travel and invest in service projects around the world that required full immersion into the culture and intense effort to understand the problems facing the citizens. For Sophia those experiences led her to both Israel and to Peru and in both settings resulted in incredible friendships and global connections with peers as well as an intense appreciation for global humanitarian efforts.

Sophia is not only searching for an academic community that will help her reach her dreams, but also an environment rich with opportunities to continue extensive service and immersion with a community of peers who are enthusiastic and passionate willing to give and to serve others. With clear goals and intense motivation and passion, Sophia will be an incredible asset to your living and learning community. I encourage your mutual attraction to this remarkable young woman.

Sincerely,

Andrea J. d'Entremont