



Sharon High School

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

Counselor Recommendation for Krishanu Datta The Michael C. Rothberg September 11th Memorial Scholarship

Before I tell you about Krishanu Datta's academic brilliance, which includes him taking numerous courses outside of school at a local community college, Harvard Extension, and online through VHS and Coursera, and before I point out his near perfect SAT score and perfect scores on SAT Subject Tests, I'd like to tell you about Krishanu Datta, the human being. His academics will stand on their own beautifully, but you may not glean from all of his supporting materials that Krishanu lives in a home that isn't terribly conducive for studying due to parental fighting, turmoil, and stress. In a town like Sharon, a majority of our students have a certain amount of cultural capital and benefit from higher socioeconomic status. Many have the benefit of parents who can help their high school-aged kids find opportunity through their own circle of networking. This hasn't been the case for Krishanu. In looking at Krishanu's resume, you'll find impressive internships and opportunities, but it is important to know that he earned these opportunities through cold calling. After making over 100 cold calls to economics professors in the Boston and Providence area, Krishanu finally got a promising bite. He has now proven invaluable in his position as an Economics Research Assistant at Boston University, a rarity for a high school student, no doubt. And while Krishanu is incredibly proud of his role at BU, it is the Self Defense Dispersal Project of Greater Boston that likely brings him the most joy and gratification. After earning his Third Degree Black Belt in Karate in 2017, performing his routine in front of over 400 people (amazing for one who is relatively shy), Krishanu envisioned and actualized a program that would empower students to find their own strength through self-defense. The Self Defense Dispersal Project has now reached over 125 students in Southeastern Massachusetts, and is now part of the weekly programming at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston. Krishanu's endeavors to have this program grow, empowering young people to combat bullying and sexual assault. Krishanu hopes to study Economics and Computer Science as an undergraduate and one day become a Data Scientist or Analyst. The thing is, like the goals of the self-defense work, Krishanu would like to use his position as a data scientist or analyst to address public issues that he feels plague society today such as wealth and social inequality. It cannot be stated strongly enough that Krishanu has a giant heart and a tremendous ethic of care for others. Krishanu has worked hard to earn the near-perfect grades and establish a list of activities that are meaningful. He works a part-time job in insurance as well as his position as an Assistant Teacher at the Russian School of Mathematics. He is a leader in student government, varsity athlete, and captain of both the Math Team and the Quiz Bowl Team. He tutors widely and freely as a member of the National Honor Society, speaks two languages in addition to English, and is adept in a number of different software and programming languages. Stated as simply as I can, Krishanu is one of the 'good ones'. He is generous with his time, leads by example, and is incredibly well liked and respected by both his peers and our faculty alike. He is fiercely intelligent and puts in the requisite time to study and do well as a student. It is with my highest recommendation that I write this scholarship letter on his behalf.

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

A little more about Krishanu:

- In addition to the seven AP courses Krishanu has taken at Sharon High, he self-studied and took the exams for four more (AP World History, Micro Economics, Macro Economics, and Computer Science Principles). Krishanu has taken every class in high school at the highest level offered.
- Additional course work that Krishanu has taken on his own include Harvard's Computer Science CS50, Machine Learning through Coursera, and Marketing at Massasoit Community College. This year, he is taking two courses through Virtual High School – Honors Programming in Java and Honors Philosophy.
- As an Economics Research Assistant at BU, Krishanu is performing data analysis by comparing political campaign donations to institutional ownership of publicly traded firms. He is currently learning how to utilize programming to streamline tasks, turning spreadsheets into databases.
- Krishanu is the Captain of our highly competitive Math Team, who last year reached the state championship after winning the Southern Massachusetts Math League Championship. He applies these skills at the Russian School of Mathematics, where he has tutored over 100 students, grades 2-11, and led five SAT prep classes.
- Krishanu is a member of the National Honor Society, and is Vice President of Student Council. Through both organizations, Krishanu has volunteered hundreds of hours for various causes and organizations including the annual Red Cross blood drives, campus clean up, tutoring, and planning school-wide events.
- Krishanu was instrumental in reviving our High School Quiz Bowl team, and is now serving as Captain. He led the team in scoring during its inaugural season, and is a content area 'expert' in history, physics, math, and economics.
- Since 2015, Krishanu has been a varsity skipper and sailor on our school's sailing team. He has competed at the state level in fleet and team racing, and can skipper a wide variety of boats.
- In the summer of 2017, Krishanu worked as an Intern at Northwestern Mutual Insurance, where he conducted research and prospected other companies to identify high net worth clients for life insurance products. He also documented prospect meetings and prepared reports that accompanied the sales cycle, as well as migrating physical copies of documents to digital format.
- Krishanu is conversationally fluent in Bengali and Mandarin.

I am confident that I have left out other important pieces of Krishanu Datta's resume, but hopefully I've conveyed what I feel makes him unique. He is tremendously excited to take his boundless potential and infinite enthusiasm to college, where he is prepared to take on the most rigorous undergraduate curriculum available. Any financial help along the way will be a tremendous help. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you'd like to further discuss his application.

Sincerely,

Tanya K. Keeney
 School Guidance Counselor
 Sharon High School

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