



Sharon High School

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To whom it may concern:

Yichi Rocky Zhang is an exceptional individual. I had the pleasure of teaching Rocky Honors Geometry during the 2015-2016 school year and again in Honors Pre-Calculus during the 2017-2018 school year. Throughout the both classes, Rocky has displayed great work ethic and interest in the material. I understand that Rocky is applying for admission at your institution, and I would like to provide my full recommendation.

Rocky is a wonderful student to have in class. He is active in discussion, attentive during lectures, and showed an astounding passion for the mathematics involved. He was one of the most intuitive students in his class and would often bring advanced insight to the Pre-Calculus and the Geometry that would lead us to other topics and would tie different units together. He did a particularly excellent job during the trigonometry units in both Pre-Calculus and Geometry. His enjoyment and participation added to the levity and culture of fun in mathematics that I try to foster in my classroom.

Rocky is one of my strongest students. He is consistently hard working and has a great understanding of foundational mathematics processes. His strong understanding enables him to solve complex problems without much support. Rocky is also an excellent troubleshooter. Occasionally, I will give students incorrect and complicated work, and Rocky is very adept at finding the mistakes and correcting them. He also uses this skill to support his classmates, answering their questions and finding their errors if I am busy with another student. Rocky is excellent at working collaboratively. Depending on the task, he can easily take a step back or rise up to lead the group. This made him a well sought after classmate whenever I did assign group-work. It was also evident from other classes because students of all ability levels would be huddled around him during Eagle Block, Sharon High School's directed study period, as Rocky would discuss everything from Shakespeare to cellular division.

Outside of my role as a classroom teacher, I also watch the weight room at Sharon High School after school, so I get to see student athletes in a different context. Rocky would come to the weight room as a member of the running sports teams (cross country and track). Seeing Rocky in the weight room for supplemental lifting before running showed me another side of him. In class, he had a strong passion for mathematics, so he always worked hard, but Rocky did not have a passion for lifting, but he still worked at it because he saw how it led to making him better. Most of the track athletes would simply loaf around the weight room and avoid the eyes of their coaches, but Rocky did what he was supposed to do, even though he wasn't too fond of it. His awareness and his efforts to improve speak to his character in everything that he does.

Beyond anything measurable, like grades and athletic prowess, Rocky is also just a good kid. His greatest asset is his personality. His bright demeanor allows him to take setbacks and accomplishments in stride, without letting them affect him negatively. When Rocky faced adversity and would score lower than he expected, which was rare, he would bounce back and not get lost in himself, like I see so many students do now. He also

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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

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takes success without letting it inflate his ego. Rocky is one of the most balanced students that I have ever had the pleasure of teaching in my decade in education.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate my recommendation for Yichi Rocky Zhang. If your school is seeking outstanding and upstanding students, you will find few as qualified as Rocky. If you have any questions or desire further information, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Thomas Charest
Mathematics Teacher
Sharon High School
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