



SHARON HIGH SCHOOL

181 POND STREET SHARON, MA 02067
OFFICE: (781) 784-1554 FAX: (781) 784-1550
WWW.SHARON.K12.MA.US/SHS



@SHS_EAGLES @SHARONMAEAGLES @SHS_EAGLES

JOSE LIBANO, PRINCIPAL
ELIZABETH GAVIN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
JENNIFER GRAVELINE, SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR

ROBERT POMER, DEAN OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
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October 27, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

Maia Mongado is one of the most capable, hardworking and intellectually curious students I have come across in my fourteen years of teaching. She is a gifted writer and public speaker, has an extraordinary work ethic and is a quiet, yet effective classroom leader with a big heart and compassionate soul.

I met Maia when she was enrolled in my AP United States History class during her junior year. Given the scope of the curriculum and because I teach the course thematically rather than chronologically, students often struggle to learn how to analyze and contextualize such a vast amount of information. But from the first week of class I could tell that Maia was going to have no problem mastering the skills needed to succeed. What stood out most for me was her ability to craft a written argument with a clarity and grace far above her peers. The first essay assigned to the class asked them to evaluate the political and economic factors that led to sectionalism and eventually the Civil War. Most students in the class struggled with creating a strong thesis statement and supporting it with relevant information and insightful analysis, but not Maia. Her essay was beautifully written, nuanced and sophisticated, and I used it as a model for the class. As gifted a writer as she was, however, Maia never stopped trying to improve, and throughout the course of the year it was a pleasure to bear witness to the increasing level of sophistication of her journals and essays.

Maia tends to be quiet by nature, but was nonetheless always actively engaged during class discussions. While she wasn't usually the first person to put her hand in the air when the class was asked a question, when she did speak it was invariably with an insight missed by everyone else, because she was always listening and contemplating other student's contributions. These critical thinking and analytical skills were particularly evident during discussions revolving around the intersection of science and history, whether it was over the moral implications in the creation of the atomic bomb, the use of eugenics to justify Jim Crow, or the application of Taylorism to the industrial assembly line. I know that Maia is interested in studying biotechnology or biomedical engineering in college, and those interests helped her bring a unique dimension to the class' understanding of how technology can have both intended and unintended consequences on historical events.

There is nothing I can say about Maia Mongado's accomplishments that her impressive resume doesn't already reveal but there are certain qualities special students have that no credential can convey She reads widely, can carry on a conversation about a range of topics, and also has a big heart—she is always willing to lend a hand or sympathetic ear to a classmate in need.

Maia's array of academic and leadership skills indicate she will thrive in the next phase of her education and will be a valuable member of any class she takes, organization she joins or institution she attends. I recommend her to your university without reservation.

Sincerely yours,

Courtney Malcolm
Sharon High School Social Studies Dept.

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 ~ **R**ESPONSIBILITY ~ **I**NTEGRITY ~ **D**EDICATION ~ **E**XCELLENCE

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