



# Sharon High School

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Jose Libano, Principal  
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Robert Pomer, Dean of Academic Affairs  
Nicholas Schlierf, Athletic Director

## Counselor recommendation for Rona Ganthier

Date of birth: 02/03/2001

Inviting and embracing the challenge, Rona Ganthier is the ultimate example of dedication and determination. Having worked with Rona since she joined our high school community, I have been impressed by her “can do” attitude even when cautioned by others that she might be taking on too much. While there are many examples of this attitude, the most exemplary is her involvement in the Dream Far marathon challenge. Last fall, I noticed Rona stopping by the Counseling Office fairly regularly, but not to see me. She was meeting with her running partner and Dream Far mentor, one of my fellow counselors. Yes, Rona had taken on the challenge – a nine-month commitment to training and preparing to participate and complete a marathon in May. Rona, not a runner and with literally no running experience, (she is a committed theater student and engineering club member) was willing to accept the challenge. On the Monday after the marathon I had the pleasure of seeing Rona and she was beaming and wearing her medal. She took on an incredible challenge with a commitment both to weekday and weekend training schedules (meeting with mentors and teammates from other Boston area schools – Sharon High School only had two runners involved last year), overcoming a bout with some injuries and did it. Rona’s dedication and determination is simply exceptional.

Academically, Rona has also demonstrated incredible dedication and determination. In a highly competitive and demanding high school community, the demands can be overwhelming, but the opportunities are incredible. During the course selection process, Rona and I have spent time discussing maximizing her achievement while also embracing challenges. Her passion to learn and to experience the most challenging and robust academic experiences has resulted in some lower overall grades, while providing incredible opportunities to learn. Sometimes overriding the recommendation of the teacher for a particular class or level, Rona has never shied away from the challenge. In fact she was very disappointed this year when the conflicts in her original selection of courses bumped her out of AP Computer Science A – she wanted to further her coding skills and apply the knowledge and skills that she experienced in her Girls Who Code program. But as we worked through the options, she embraced yet again another very challenging and engaging course of study including Honors Humanities (English and History). Having thoroughly enjoyed her experience in Honors American Studies last year, Rona will continue to develop her analytical skills as well as her written and oral expression in Honors Humanities. This interdisciplinary course (English and History) requires in depth analysis of material and critical thinking related to connecting themes across the content areas. AP Computer Science Principles, Honors Biotechnology and Intro to Calculus are all directly connected to her interest in a career in an engineering related field (with an eye toward health care and biomedical opportunities) while AP French provides the most challenging and passionate continuation of her study of the language and culture. While Rona may appear reserved in a classroom full of overly eager to please peers, she offers insight and critical thinking to classroom discussion. Rona’s inherent desire to learn and to understand is inspiring and impressive to her teachers.

Outside of the classroom (and aside from the miles of training runs), Rona loves her family and her theater “family”. She has been involved in the theater company since her sophomore year and embraces the friendships and family-like environment. Her naturally creative and artistic persona flourishes in all aspects of the environment – design, layout, costumes, make up – all with the final group goal of producing an exceptional performance. An introvert in a sometimes overly populated company of extroverts, Rona has found the challenge to “get a word in” during meetings, a good challenge. Over the course of time she has developed her own self-confidence and has observed that others have greater confidence in Rona’s ideas and they often seek her out for assistance and advice. Rona also has close relationship with

## 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.*

her family and is committed to her faith as well. She does see humanitarian and related adventures in her future – perhaps through the Peace Corps or related global healthcare organizations.

During our time working together, Rona has needed to remind me that learning is her goal. While her achievement and grades are important, what she takes away from a classroom experience is most important to her. That being said, I have directed Rona to less rigorous courses at times in hopes of building her overall academic record, but she has respectfully balks at the suggestions. I do believe that Rona is a passionate, creative thinker and that her skills and confidence have grown exponentially over the course of her high school career. I have confidence in Rona’s ability to use the foundation she has gained during her high school academic career into a successful college experience and ultimately to her life goals and successes. Now when I doubt a particular class selection by Rona, I picture her beaming with her marathon medal around her neck, and encourage her to focus on what she can do – which is whatever she pursues.

I encourage your mutual attraction to this promising and inspiring young woman. Rona will continue to pursue challenges and embrace opportunities with determination and dedication and will, ultimately achieve her goals.

Sincerely,

Andrea J. d’Entremont