

ASKING FOR TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Check in

Take a packet

Take a School Profile



RECOMMENDED

On your to-do list...

- Meet with your college counselor
- Work on your [resume](#)
- Work on your [college essay](#)
- Clean up your social media. Make your Twitter and Instagram private and update your Facebook settings.
- Visit colleges over the summer.
- Have a summer test prep plan.
- Get a summer job.
- Keep your “Colleges I’m Thinking About” list up-to-date.
- **Ask teachers for recommendations.**

What do colleges want to see in applicants?

- **Challenging curriculum**
- **Grades that show effort and progress**
- Well-written essay
- Passionate involvement in a few activities
- Solid test scores
- Special talents and experiences
- Letters of recommendation
- Enthusiasm for the college
- Out of school experiences
- Supplemental recommendations

What Northwood Sends to Support Your Application

Counselor Recommendation

- Written by your college counselor
- Summarizes your high school career
- Includes quotes from your teachers
- Addresses any “issues”

OFFICIAL NORTHWOOD SCHOOL COLLEGE RECOMMENDATION

[REDACTED] is that rare student who embodies what an independent school aspires to instill in its students. She is an enthusiastic and joyful student and has earned the number one ranking in her class. She is an accomplished five-sport athlete (alpine skiing, soccer, tennis, lacrosse and swimming). She thrives in the creative arts; her artwork adorns walls and shelves around school and her musical performances (she plays piano, flute, and saxophone) are much anticipated. As a leader (she's the co-chair of the judicial board, a resident advisor, student council member and editor-in-chief of the yearbook) she capably shoulders great responsibility with seriousness-of-purpose.

Katie is a curious student who loves learning and never shies away from a challenge in the classroom:

Her approach to academics mirrors her approach to life in general. She always seems to enjoy and to throw herself into whatever she is doing. She learns whatever you put in front of her, to be sure, but she also wants to stretch herself, so she takes chances in her compositions and applies original thinking to whatever we're studying. Moreover, she does this without pretension, she's as sincere and straightforward a student as she is a person.

Stephen Reed, AP English Literature

Katie's academic credentials are superb: she is earning a 4.20 grade point average in a rigorous college-prep curriculum that includes all of the honors and AP courses available to her. Her strong grades are reinforced by her outstanding ACT scores. The raw numbers, while impressive, do not fully portray the kind of student Katie is. Engage her in a conversation about her classes and she'll tell you how much she "loves" (her emphasis) each class. She is interested in studying a college curriculum that will prepare her for a career in medicine, but her genuine curiosity in a diverse range of subjects will lead her to take classes all over the Brown campus: history, French, political science, psychology, literature.

In our community, Katie has taken ownership of the school culture. She is serious about her role as tone-setter, role model and cheer leader. She has earned most of the most important student leadership roles in the school: judicial board co-chair, resident advisor, student council, tour guide.

Katie is a young woman of the highest integrity. She is a student role model in terms of her academic aspirations and her personal deportment as well. On many occasions, Katie has stood up at our all-school meetings and advocated for a particular cause and followed it up with the attention to detail and personal work ethic to ensure the success of the endeavor. She is proactive in terms of solving problems and seems to be always at the ready to work with faculty and students to reach consensus on issues. She is articulate, witty and friendly; I would welcome her into my home at any time.

Edward Good, Headmaster

Official Northwood School College Recommendation

Katherine Anne Liebowitz

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Music is a vital aspect of Katie's life. She isn't a conservancy-caliber musician, but she is an accomplished pianist and is capable with the flute and saxophone. At Northwood, Katie is a celebrated musician who performs at formal performances, school meetings, open mics and casual jam sessions. At college, music will remain a part of Katie's life, no matter how many science labs she has, which will please her music instructor.

Katie has been in the band for four years now and has developed into one of the most outstanding musicians at Northwood School. She plays three instruments in many different styles and is also an improvising musician on flute and saxophone. She played a great improvised solo on "Chameleon" during our most recent concert. What impresses me the most about Katie is her drive and determination. When I let her know that she was going to playing a solo, she dove right into it and got down to business.

Zach Jakob, Music

I write this letter with a great sense of irony, because Katie is so humble that it would be torture for her to read it. As she began the college application process she resisted cataloging her extracurricular activities and community service activities: "But I didn't do it to put on a college application!" she protested. Katie learns, leads, competes and creates because that is what she loves to do. Because she does all of this so well I offer her my most enthusiastic recommendation to [REDACTED]

John Spear
Director of College Guidance

Two Teacher Recommendations

- Written by teachers who had you in class
- Usually one science/math and one English/social science
- Addresses key question: can you do the work in college?




Recommendation for [REDACTED]

I had the opportunity to teach Matt for two years at Northwood; once during his freshman year in Honors Biology, and again during his junior year in AP Biology. During this period Matt has matured into a confident, conscientious student who is respected by faculty as well as his peers. This year, Matt is taking on more leadership roles at the school. He is a quiet leader who doesn't put himself in the spotlight, instead he works hard at getting other students excited about events or projects, and then gets them motivated and organized.

Matt is a very bright student who has a strong determination to succeed, but does not get discouraged by the challenges faced in difficult classes. He does not tend to get overly stressed about his assignments, instead he works steadily on them until they are finished, and they are always finished with diligence. Matt is an absolutely consistent student who maintained grades of A to A- during each quarter in every course he has taken from me. He has a very good understanding of biology, and was always near, or at the top of his class on tests and homework grades. The only small weakness I saw in Matt's performance during the years was his tendency to not answer written questions thoroughly. It was always obvious that he knew the answer, but he sometimes stopped short of a comprehensive explanation. I saw Matt make great progress in this area during his junior year. He ended the year a more mature student with a good understanding of his learning style. He also ended up earning high scores on the National AP Biology exam and SAT Subject Test in Biology.

Matt is an exemplary student and citizen. I have every confidence in Matt's ability to do well in college, and I hope that the success he has achieved at Northwood will help him realize the potential he has to accomplish great things in the future. I therefore give him my highest recommendation for your program.


Jill Walker
Head of Faculty

Transcript

- A record of all of your high school courses, grades and credits
- Includes GPA and Rank
- We also send your transcript from prior school (grade 9-12)

SECONDARY SCHOOL RECORD—TRANSCRIPT

STUDENT INFORMATION					
First Name	Last Name	Address			
[REDACTED]					
NORTHWOOD SCHOOL Lake Placid, New York 12946 Tel. - 518-523-3337 FAX - 518-523-3401					
School		Accredited by		Days of Instruction	
		NYSED		9 - 12 and P.G.	
MARK	TEP	Percent Graduates		CEEB: 332-760	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Entering College - 100			
Reading Mark		Writing Mark			
D		B-			
CLASS RECORD					
YEAR	SUBJECT'S	MARKS			
		1ST SEMESTER	2ND SEMESTER	CUMULATIVE	AP or IBC
9 th	Intro. to Literature & Composition	A	1		
	French I (8 th)	B-5	1		
10 th	French II	A-	1		
	Algebra I (8 th)	B-3	1	86	
2010	Geometry	A	1		
	Biology (H)	A	1		
2011	World History	A	1		
	Health	P	1/2		
2012	Methods & Meanings in English	A-	1		
	French III	A-	1		
11 th	Algebra II (H)	A-	1		
	Chemistry (H)	A	1		
2013	Western Civilization	A-	1		
	Physical Education	P	1		
11 th	AP English Language	B+	1	AP: 3	
	French IV	A	1		
2012	Pre-Calculus (H)	B	1		
	AP Biology	A-	1	AP: 3	
2013	AP U.S. History	B+	1	AP: 3	
	Physical Education	P	0		
12 th	AP English Literature	B+	1		
	Calculus	B	1		
2013	AP Environmental Science	A-	1		
	AP Psychology	B+	1		
2014	Publications	A	1		
	Physical Education	P	0		

EXPLANATION OF MARKING SYSTEM		
MARK	INTERPRETATION	VALUE
A	Outstanding	4.0
A-	Superior	3.7
B+	Excellent	3.3
B	Very Good	3.0
B-	Good	2.7
C+	Above Average	2.3
C	Average	2.0
C-	Satisfactory	1.7
D+	Satisfactory	1.3
D	Passing	1.0
F	Failure	0.0
P	Pass in previous course	N/A
AD	Audit	N/A

Explanation of Ranking System: Rank at Northwood is not cumulative. It is designated below as being for the marking period, semester or year. Pass/fail courses such as health and physical education are not included in rank. Grades are weighted .5 for all honors courses, French IV and V, Spanish IV and V, and calculus and 1.0 for A.P. courses.

Student Average: 4.16 Student Rank: 8 of 68
Student average and student rank are weighted.

Rank and average above cover:
 _____ Marking Period I only
 _____ Semester I only
 X _____ The 2013-2014 school year final grade

OUTSTANDING ACTIVITIES, HONORS, AWARDS

2012 - 2013 Cum Laude Society
 AngsburyNorth Country Scholarship

2013 - 2014 Harry MacDonald Award

Please note that Physical Education was passed in Grade 9.

School Profile

- Detailed description of Northwood's academic program
- Details graduation requirements and academic policies
- Helps colleges understand your academic environment

GRADE DISTRIBUTION CHART
(2015-2016 grades earned in courses taken by the class of 2017)

Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Art					
Drawing and 2D Design	1				
Ceramic Arts	5	1			
Digital Imaging	2				
Fundamentals of Art	5	1			
Jazz Band	4				
Painting and Printing	3	3			
Publications			1		
Raku	1				
Sculpture	3	2			
Guitar	10	1			
English					
AP English Literature	1	8	2		
Art of Writing	2	1			
Literary Themes and Analytical Writing	9	15	9	3	
Methods & Readings in English	2	1	2		
ESL					
ESL Advanced	1	5			
ESL Transitions 1		3			
ESL Transitions 2	1	2			
ESL US History	1	5	3		
Languages					
French III	2	2	1		
Honors French IV		1			
Honors French V	1				
Honors Spanish IV		1			
Spanish I		1	1		
Spanish III	2	1			
Math					
Geometry		1			
Algebra II	5	2	3	3	
Algebra III	4	1			
AP Calculus AB		2			
Calculus	3	1	1		
Statistics		1			
Honors Algebra II		5			
Honors Pre-Calculus	3	3	1		
Pre-Calculus	2	8	2	1	
Science					
AP Biology		3	3		
Chemistry		1	4		
Human Biology		3	1		
AP Environmental Science		1	5		
Environmental Science		2	5		
Geology		1	5		
Honors Chemistry		1	3		
Honors Physics		2	8	1	
Honors Biology		1			
Physics		1	2	2	
Applied Robotics		4			
Computer Programming		3			
Social Science					
Approach History		1	1		
AP Psychology		1			
AP US History		3	4		
Economics		1	3		
Ethics		1	1		
Honors US History		4			
Sociology		1			
The Western World			1		
US History		4	13	7	
World Politics		1	3		

COURSE OFFERINGS - 2016-2017

ENGLISH Intro to Literature & Composition Methods and Readings in English Literary Themes and Analytical Writing Solo Composition & World Literature AP English Language/ AP English Literature (Offered alternating years) Journalism?	SOCIAL SCIENCE Foundations of the World in the World The Modern World US History AP US History AP Psychology Advanced History Anthropology Sociology Economics Ethics International Relations World Politics Entrepreneurial Studies ¹	Physics Honors Physics Human Biology Environmental Science Computer Science Coding and Robotics AP Biology AP Environmental Science Applied Robotics Innovation + Design ¹	ARTS Painting & Printing Advanced Painting & Printing Drawing and 2D Design Advanced Drawing & 2D Design Ceramic I & II Digital Imaging/ Taking I & II Publications Fundamentals of Flat Sculpture Raku Guitar Advanced Guitar Band I & II
MATHEMATICS Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Honors Algebra II Algebra III Pre-Calculus Statistics Honors Pre-Calculus Calculus AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC	SCIENCE Biology Honors Biology Geology Chemistry Honors Chemistry	LANGUAGE French I - III Honors French IV - V Spanish I - III Honors Spanish IV - V Fundamentals of ESL Intermediate ESL Advanced ESL Transition ESL	

¹ New in 2016-17



RECOMMENDED

You are going to ask five teachers for recommendations

- Two “Common App Teacher Recommendations”
- 3 “Northwood Recommendations”

Two Common App Teacher Recommendations



Recommendation for [REDACTED]

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Director of College Guidance

How to ask for recommendations