March 28, 2022

Scholarship Committee:

I have known Kyra Chen all throughout high school as her counselor. Kyra has always struck me as very responsible and self-motivated. She is an all-around happy person and loves connecting with others. When COVID hit and she found herself more isolated than ever, she learned that she thrives on connecting and communicating with others. She has exceptional people skills and really values her interpersonal skills. So she sought out new opportunities to help her continue to have more interactions with others. She got a paid internship in a lab where she was able to get off her computer and use her hands! Lab work is her favorite part of the sciences. This internship helped her see that working in a lab and conducting research that will benefit others is her career passion. She hopes to work in biomedical research or as a medical professional. She certainly has the persistence and patience to excel in this area. She truly loves the sciences and will have taken eight of our science courses by the time she graduates. Her favorite courses were AP Biology and Anatomy & Physiology. But Kyra has a creative side too. She can easily think outside the box. To keep her classmates in AP U.S. History engaged, she created a crossword puzzle with a prize to get everyone involved. She did this all on her own. She also founded the “For the Love of Art” program that offers free art classes to children with no art programs in their schools. She also plays in our school band and along with her bandmates provided well-received concerts during the pandemic to a local nursing home. Kyra definitely found ways to keep her connections with people alive during COVID restrictions. Kyra is a figure skater and skates with a nationally competing synchronized ice skating team. She volunteered as an assistant coach at a local ice skating rink. She has worked her way through the U.S. Figure Skating Association’s test system and finally earned the status of USFSA Gold Medalist. Part of the testing took her several tries, but she persisted and accomplished this huge goal! She loves to teach others, work with children and share her passions when she can. She loves to bake and could often be found making something to bring to her friends’ houses so they could have a few moments of interacting and touching base. Overall, Kyra is a natural leader. She leads by her strong example of loving to learn, participating in classes, stepping up to take a leadership role when doing group work and by putting her positive attitude into everything she does. As the current president of our Garden Club, their group won Best Youth Garden at our local county fair. There’s really no stopping Kyra!

Kyra’s academic record is an excellent indicator of her abilities. She has progressively challenged herself ending this year, and last, with six advanced courses. She has accomplished AP Chinese by taking a course off campus. She will have taken all of those science courses and all honors/AP courses in both English and math, ending with a total of seven math courses. Kyra is also a National Merit Semi-Finalist which really is no surprise. She is very prepared and ready for a challenging college experience.

I highly recommend Kyra Chen to any financial assistance and know she would never take any of it for granted. I have no doubt she will continue to be a role model to others and a lifelong learner. She is capable of being successful in the most academically challenging college environment and I have no doubt will reach all of her goals.

Sincerely,

Ann Nebolon

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