

10/2/12

Dear Admissions Officer,

Samantha Deering is someone you absolutely need to meet. She is the rare kind of person that brings out the very best in those around her in a seemingly natural, effortless way, while finding a way to excel herself across many areas of her life. She has many personal gifts in terms of her abilities, but it is her relentlessly positive attitude and extraordinary work ethic that make her stand out regardless of the company she is in at the time. Once you meet her, get to know her, and accept her application for admission, you'll begin to understand.

Samantha is a well-rounded person. She's musical and serves as the section leader for the violins in the PCHS orchestra. She is athletic and is a captain of the varsity volleyball team along with being the starting setter for the team. She also loves gymnastics and she is employed by a local facility as a gymnastics coach for younger, aspiring gymnasts. Her employer, the young athletes and their parents all love Samantha. In addition, Samantha has earned a cumulative grade point average of over 3.99 on an unweighted 4-point scale and she continues to challenge herself by including AP Biology in her schedule this year. She is a pioneer of sorts as she will be a member of the first graduating class of Pinckney's New Technology High School program. Group projects and presentations are hallmark characteristics of the work done in New Tech High classes. Again, Samantha has shone brightly as a leader and a caring team member in all of those settings.

In the community, Samantha has logged over fifty hours of volunteer community service and is an active, contributing member of the Pinckney chapter of the National Honor Society. Because she is an exemplary citizen in our school and community, our staff selected Samantha as the one nominee from our school for the Daughters of the American Republic (DAR) Citizen of the Year scholarship and award. Samantha also served as an intern at a local physical therapy office to give her a taste of her future career in that field. As always, she brought her smile and positive outlook into the lives of those in the physical therapy office.

This is not to say that Samantha has not known any difficulties in her young life. On the contrary, she was forced to face an extremely difficult situation in the winter of her 10th grade school year. One of Samantha's best friends and volleyball teammates chose to end her own life in February of 2011. Through this tragedy, Samantha grew and assisted others while grieving this tremendous loss herself. As her volleyball coach, her school counselor and as her neighbor, I was witness to the struggles experienced by Samantha during this time. Not only did Samantha find her way through this dark time, she continually had an eye toward helping others do the same. In the fall of 2011, she was a key member of the group of volleyball players that organized a suicide prevention awareness-themed volleyball event, called Serving the Purpose---The Purpose is Life, that garnered a great deal of media attention and successfully raised over \$3100 for the cause of suicide prevention. The event continued into its second year this fall once again with Samantha as a key organizer and leader. She was able to work through a personal challenge while continuing to keep up her grades and serve her community. She is a leader in every positive sense of the word.

Samantha Deering is so much more than a grade point average and test scores could ever possibly represent. That's why I believe that you just simply have to meet her to discover for yourself all that she has to offer to your campus community. It is my pleasure to give her my highest possible personal and professional recommendation. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if I can be of further support in your acceptance decision process.

Sincerely,

David Mitchell
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