



# BILLERICA MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL



2/25/2023

## Context

I know Naomi Boldebeck from AP Physics 1 (2021-2022), AP Physics C (Mechanics + E&M) (2022-2023), our school's FIRST Robotics Team (2022-2023), and 3 terms of "extended learning opportunity" (ELO), an independent study in which students work with a teacher on topics of their choice.

## Character

**Naomi is my favorite student ever.** Last year I witnessed her transformation from a shy, insecure, and anonymous student into the most curious and motivated student I have ever had in my four years at BMHS. It began one evening last year when she emailed me to confirm her physics after calculating and proving to her brother that softball required quicker reactions than baseball. Since then, her curiosity for learning has been inspirational. Daily, she asks me new physics questions like why a volleyball serve floats or how a frisbee flies. Her teammates once came to yell at me because she wouldn't stop talking about physics at softball practice. One day, during a free period, she came and used my entire whiteboard to calculate the force required to hit a home run off the pitcher she would face that afternoon.

Last January, after sensing she needed a push, I encouraged Naomi to come to a robotics team meeting. That first day, she spent six hours building a new wheel assembly for our robot, until I kicked her out at 11 PM. Over the following few months, she eagerly learned how to use our lathes, mills, and saws, learned CAD, and helped me build a new Tesla coil for my AP Physics C class. In her ELOs, using the skills she picked up in robotics, she has worked on several small projects, including helping to design a telescope solar filter, small wind tunnel, and miniature wind-powered electric generator.

Her positive attitude is contagious. To her friends, she is "ambitious, loyal, and inspiring," and "a leader to all." She brings a goofy joy to the classroom; her impish grin warns of ensuing hilarity. "Want to see an inelastic collision?" she asked, not waiting for my reply before jumping on my roly chair, realizing she was going too fast and yelling "TOO MUCH MOMENTUM!" while slamming into the wall, falling over and giggling hysterically.

Naomi holds herself to the highest standards. She was determined to be named captain of her two sports teams this year, and succeeded. She strives just as hard to strike out every single batter she faces as she does to understand every problem on every homework. She signed up for AP Calculus BC this year (our school's most advanced math offering) as one of the few students who had not previously taken calc, and after some tutoring at the beginning of the year to get up to speed, she has surpassed most of the students who took calc last year.

I've never met anyone who takes such joy and interest in learning. Naomi is motivated not by grades or a GPA, but simply by knowledge, making her learning experiences far more meaningful than just a number on a transcript. I've taught hundreds of students and will have hundreds more, and I'm honestly afraid I'll never get another one like Naomi.

Sincerely,

Francesco Drake

BMHS Physics Teacher, BMHS FIRST Robotics Team 4909 Lead Mentor

[fdrake@billericak12.com](mailto:fdrake@billericak12.com), 781-354-0808