



LOWER MORELAND HIGH SCHOOL

555 Red Lion Road, Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania 19006

*Expanding Horizons...
Individualizing Excellence*

*Mrs. Julien Drennan
Principal*

Dear Scholarship Committee:

On a crisp autumn morning one Sunday, a colleague and I laced up our running shoes and put on red tee shirts with the logo, Theo's Train Gang. We headed to the Art Museum of Philadelphia for the annual Parkway Four Seasons Run, which is advertised as the largest annual fundraiser for the Cancer Center of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Theo Hansel and his family were there ahead of us, organized and ready for full participation. We ran for Theo and in support of the incredible work that he is already doing to combat vicious and unforgiving childhood cancers. Theo views his survival from stage IV Neuroblastoma as a gift and, largely because of this, I believe, is one of the most determined, focused and goal-oriented young people with whom I have ever worked. He is also one of deep character and true spirit.

Theo comes across as a student who has always been "on top" and to whom everything comes easily. He will not allow his medical history (or the hearing loss he endures as a result) impede his momentum and progress. Theo yearns to be a true contributor in the field of medicine and research; most inspiring to me, however, is that he already is. Academically, Theo stands among the top students within the first decile of his class. His courses are the most rigorous and his work ethic is of the highest caliber. His level of intelligence is clear in conversation; faculty remark with a smile that Theo rapidly surpasses most around him when he begins discussing the scientific theory related to his summer work at CHOP, where he has worked as a research technician assistant with, among others, his treating oncologist from fourteen years ago. Theo simply cannot be stopped nor should he be; he is passionate and appreciative of all opportunities to learn from the best in the field. Theo is happiest when he is involved.

Theo is highly respected within the school community. Students and adults genuinely like Theo. He has a smile and a kind word for everyone, it seems, and authentic ability to communicate without condescension. His keen interest in myriad topics, ranging from math and science to human geography (this AP course, in fact, is one of his favorites, to-date) to choir to baseball is nothing short of revitalizing. His resume is decorated with examples of involvement and leadership, the details of which are well beyond what I could succinctly reference in a single letter. What Theo does, he does for all of the right reasons and with the best of intentions.

In September, Theo will take his place among our nation's best and brightest students at one of our top institutions of higher learning. When I read the criteria for the Alan Bell Memorial Award, my very first thought was Theo Hansel. More importantly, I believe that Theo would sincerely be honored to receive such recognition.

Respectfully submitted,

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